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for a special time  
this Christmas

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with heart

10 smart  
storage solutions  
for under £100

New-look  
magazine

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**ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO DO THE DISHES**



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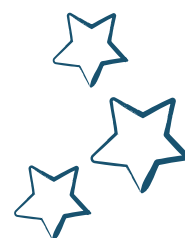
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## I really do love this time of year...

*I've just a few more presents on my list to buy, the tree is up in the living room and decorated by my very excited seven-year-old son Jack, who is waiting patiently for the night Santa finally arrives. I've put twinkling lights in almost all of my rooms – the Christmas and New Year break is going to be magical in our home. It's also the ideal time to sit back, relax and enjoy time with family and friends, reflect on the past 12 months and consider what's in store for 2015. This month's issue comes with a big hit of seasonal ideas, so you can see in the New Year in style – to celebrate new-look Good Homes, our special gift to you is a free £15 ticket to The Cake & Bake Show, £5 off Ikea decorations and the chance to win £1,000 of new flooring and bespoke shutters worth up to £2,000. Enjoy the festivities.*

Lisa

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
LISA ALLEN

## Your bigger, better Good Homes magazine

For all the extra ideas & inspiration in this issue, look out for these icons



# This month



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STYLING SIAN WILLIAMS

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CAKE & BAKE SHOW**  
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Decorate your bedroom with  
stylish and seasonal updates

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# Have your best-ever New Year

Our round-up of the latest buys, clever ideas and special finishing touches



## FESTIVE SPACE

Swivel wooden tree, £35; silver lantern, from £25; Mira bench, £399; sheepskin rug in ivory, £35; all John Lewis

## HOME COMFORTS

*Relax with family and friends over the holiday season*

For the vast majority of us, this time of year is one of the busiest – a season full of socialising and entertaining. It's also the perfect opportunity to snuggle under a furry blanket, turn up the heating, or if you're lucky enough, light a real fire and spend a bit of quality time planning for the year ahead.

Then brush off the cobwebs,

pop on your boots and go for a winter stroll in the woods with family and friends (floral wellies, £39.95, Joules). On your return, switch on the fairy lights, illuminate the scented candles and fill your home with a warm, festive glow. Or why not create a welcoming outdoor nook with sheepskin throws, a perfectly placed bench and stylish lanterns? The perfect excuse to warm up with glasses of home-made mulled wine.



## This month

### WE'RE BUYING



#### LAST-MINUTE DECORATIONS

Add instant sparkle with this festive three-wick candle, £8, Next Home

### WE'RE GIVING



#### A CHUNKY ACCESSORY

This cream cable-knit cushion is an ideal gift for a home lover, £40, R.J.R. John Rocha at Debenhams

### WE'RE MAKING



#### SEASONAL TIPPLES

Having a party? Fill this traditional Kilner drinks dispenser with mulled wine, £29.99, Lakeland



## Price patrol WALL CLOCKS

*Start the New Year  
on time and in style*



£35

### GOOD CHOICE

Fob design with Roman dial (H43.6x W35xD4.2cm), Marks & Spencer



£112

### LUXURY TOUCH

The Battersby will suit a classic kitchen (H50xW50xD8cm), Newgate Clocks



This unusual solid-wood maple leaf chopping board by Bliss in the Woods has been inspired by British woodlands, £35, Unique and Unity

### FAMILY TIME

Alpaca wool throw; furry cushions; scented candles; box knitted chess set; all Amara



## STYLE SPOTTER

# LAIDBACK LIVING

*Huddle round the fire with cosy throws and retro board games*

### A NOD TO THE SEASON

Twelfth night finishes on 5 January 2015, so there's still plenty of time to enjoy your Christmas decorations. Freshen up the look for the new year by spray painting fresh or artificial garlands and pine cones with a matt white paint. Try Plastikote super matt flat white, £7.98 for 400ml.

### SPACE FOR RELAXING

Create a warm and snug area in your living room with soft throws, knitted cushions, furry rugs and flickering candles, where you and your family can settle down with a mug of hot chocolate, a good book or play old-fashioned board games.

### ← WINTER WARMER

Hot chocolate and mug, £8, Next Home



### ALL WRAPPED UP

Whitstable sparkle throw, £20, Tesco

### ↓ FUN TIME

Five classic board game set, £18, Ellie Ellie





## EASY ENTERTAINING



*'There is nothing quite like a freshly made cup of coffee to start the day. I love the pastel colour and vintage design of this Francis Francis XI pale blue coffee machine.'* £399, Illy

Charlotte Blake, Features Assistant



WISH LIST

## TASTY TREATS

*Bake some seasonal star-shaped biscuits*

**1** Pre-heat your oven to 150°C and line your baking tray with non-stick parchment. Next, whisk 100g butter and 50g caster sugar in a bowl until light and fluffy.

**2** Sift in 175g flour and mix well. Roll out and use different-sized star cutters to form shapes, making a little hole at the top with a skewer for the string.

**3** Bake for 25 minutes or until you notice the biscuits turning golden brown. Then take out, leave on a cooling rack and dust with icing sugar. To serve, string with red and white twine and hang from the tree.

Make it EASY



## CUTE CONTAINER

Enamelware cookie cutter set in tin, The Contemporary Home

Get organised  
DIARIES

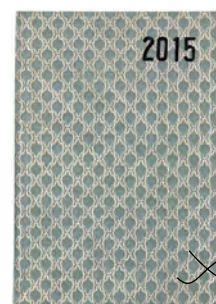
*Plan for the year ahead with a practical buy*



£11.95

## DITSY DESIGN

This pretty A5 floral diary is full of seasonal facts and ideas, Joules



£5

## ART DECO

Keep track of appointments with this linen-print A5 diary, Tesco



£12

## TIME AFTER TIME

Write key dates in this vintage-themed A6 version, Cath Kidston



£6.50

## HANDBAG CHOICE

Make plans with this slim week-to-view variety, Paperchase



# TRENDING NOW GOLD

*Welcome in the New Year  
with this glamorous colour*

**THE LOOK** Metallics were at the forefront of interior trends throughout 2014, and this looks set to continue. Gold is the perfect choice for a New Year's dining table, as it has an air of elegance and celebration. Decorate with fun glittery stag ornaments, gleaming gold cutlery and metallic-rimmed glassware. Combine with white china and a linen tablecloth to keep the look modern.

**WHAT'S NEW?** Talking Tables has recently launched its Party Porcelain Gold range (see images bottom) of tableware and decorations, just in time for the end-of-year festivities. Add sparklers to your dessert for a seasonal flare, and hang Christmas bunting and garlands over mirrors and mantelpieces to add to the party atmosphere.

## DECADENT DINING

Gold stag garland, £8.50; gold table-top tree, £11 each; gold diamond glitter garland, £7; gold glitter reindeer ornament, from £7 each; all Talking Tables



## ← BRIGHT LOOK

Gold-plated cutlery, £22 for four, Rose & Grey

## PEARLISED FINISH

Linea glass charger plate in gold finish, £16, House of Fraser

SHOP  
THE LOOK



## PRETTY SETTING

Add a woodland-inspired theme to your dining table. Gold plates, £3.50 each, stag canapé picks, £8.50 for 12



## GROUP TOGETHER

Choose rich colours and display against a white background to stand out. Paper baubles, from £11 per pack



## SPARKLING CENTREPIECE

Pierce oranges with cloves of cinnamon and decorate with indoor star sparklers, £5 per pack, all three images Talking Tables



## Make it special

### BURNS NIGHT



↑ **LOVED UP**  
Tartan heart  
decorations, £1  
each, Poundland



#### CHECK MATE

Shetland wool  
throw, £69, The  
Scotland Shop



#### ↑ ELEGANT UPDATE

Hexham table  
lamp, £82.80,  
Dar Lighting

You don't have to be Scottish to celebrate the life and works of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, on 25 January. Invite friends and family over for a Burns Night party and include a mix of classic and vegetarian dishes, such as cock-a-leekie soup, spiced haggis, neeps, tatties and cloutie dumpling for dessert, washed down with just a small glass of warming malt whisky.



### Make it EASY

**CLEVER IDEA**  
Faux snow berry  
garland, £18.75,  
Nordic House

## Stylish centrepiece

*Create a modern display*

☆ **This quick and easy make will add a contemporary appeal to a New Year dining table, and can be refreshed once the festivities are over to brighten up another room or space. All you need are three white pillar candles, small white pots for plants, a pretty berry garland and a piece of wood painted in white, chalk paint.**

☆ If using on a dining table, arrange a piece of fabric or your tablecloth, then position the painted wood along the centre.

☆ **Arrange the pillar candles at regular intervals and place the garland around them loosely.**

☆ Select your plants carefully, think about the moisture indoors – moss is a great choice as it has a bright green colour and will thrive inside if watered regularly.

☆ **Add extra touches with small tealights, stars or coloured wood.**

## ENJOY THE CELEBRATIONS



### JUST THE TWO OF YOU

Curl up by a log fire and welcome in 2015 in a beautiful thatched cottage in Stokenham near Salcombe in Devon. Enjoy bracing walks along the nearby beach. From £1,000 for four nights, Unique Home Stays.



### YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS

Celebrate in style at this year's annual fireworks display along the South Bank of the River Thames in London. For the first time, this event requires one ticket per person, and you can book up to four tickets at £10 each. Visit [london.gov.uk](http://london.gov.uk) or [seetickets.com](http://seetickets.com) to book now.



### FOR ALL THE FAMILY

The Grove Hotel in Hertfordshire will be hosting a grand night of celebrations on New Year's Eve, including a three-course meal, breakfast and overnight stay. There's also a live band, fireworks and a Kids Zone. A special treat for all the family, from £840 for a suite.



**Buy now**

Get the look in your home

**LIGHTEN UP**

Grace shade  
with diamond  
fitting, £45, Bhs

**→ SOFT GREY**

PJ8142 luxury  
matt interior,  
£40 per 2.7ltr,  
Pride & Joy

**← TACTILE  
TEXTURE**

Knitted  
stoneware  
vase, £16,  
House Envy

SHOP  
THE LOOK

**→ DAMASK  
PATTERN**

Repose  
jacquard  
throw in grey,  
£60, Bedeck

**STOCKISTS**

Turn to  
page 182

**↑ SIMPLE LINES**

Southwold lamp  
table, £49, Tesco

## Update your GUEST BEDROOM

*Create a welcoming French-country scheme*

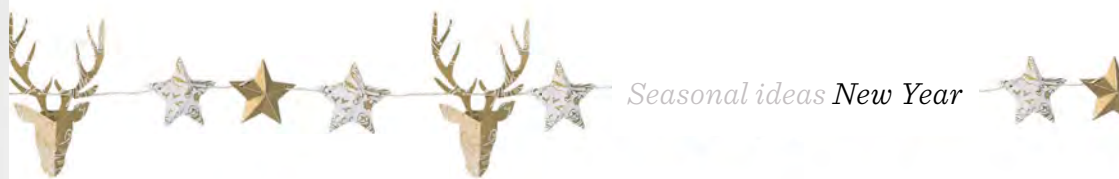
With a few simple touches, you can transform your spare bedroom into a relaxing haven for visiting family and friends. Paint the walls in a gorgeous shade of grey – we love Little Greene's inox, £35 per 2.5ltr. Choose a classically carved oak and velvet headboard, and contrast with a sparkling pendant for a feminine touch. Go for crisp, white embroidered bedding to tie the whole scheme together, finish with a vase of tall-stemmed white roses or a pretty flowering house plant.



**CHIC DETAILING**

Lydia embroidered  
bed set, from £49.50  
for a double; Penelope  
shadelier, £129;  
Anouska headboard,  
from £649 for a double;  
all Marks & Spencer





Love this



This floral tin is perfect for keeping all your new and old Christmas recipes in order. It comes with 12 letterpress dividers and 24 recipe cards, £29, Papermash

## Go shopping High-street sales

**HOUSE OF FRASER** Starts online at 12pm on 24 December and in store 8am on 26 December; includes all designer ranges and furniture. Ends on 15 January 2015.

**IKEA** The UK-wide sale starts on 18 December and ends 11 January 2015.

**JOHN LEWIS** Starts at 12pm online on 24 December, and in store on 27, across most departments. Sale ends both online and in store on 18 January 2015.

**DUNELM** Sale starts in store and online on 26 December and ends at midnight on 25 January 2015.

**COX & COX** The winter sale starts at midnight on 24 December.

## Final treats Last-minute gift ideas



£8

### TIME FOR TEA

Spice imperial black tea in a classic Kilner tin, Whittard



FROM £399

### TOP GADGET

iPad Air 2 in gold, also available in grey or white, John Lewis



£89

### CRAFTY BUY

Janome 3300 floral sewing machine, Hobbycraft

## Price patrol TABLE LAMPS

Use glass to inject a contemporary feel



£75

### GOOD CHOICE

Mablethorpe glass table lamp with fabric shade, John Lewis



£125

### LUXURY TOUCH

Apothecary glass base with linen shade, Loaf



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☆ More ☆  
shopping

# Shopping the NEW-SEASON TRENDS

*Get inspiration for your rooms from  
the latest products on sale this month*

100+ latest  
buys  
INSIDE

Love  
this

## SEASONAL STYLE

Byron occasional chair, £299;  
Byron footstool, £99; Portobello  
trestle console table, £79;  
Buxton ceramic lamp in wheat,  
£39; multi dog cushion, £10;  
tartan throw in grey, £20; solid  
oak frame, £5; all Tesco Direct

STOCKISTS  
Turn to  
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# JANUARY *100+ shopping buys* on the

From pastels and watercolour prints to geometrics and bold, striking colour, we take a look at a

## JOHN LEWIS



← **WORK WITH WOOD**  
Packington side table, from £199



↑ **PRETTY PICK**  
Bluebellgray teapot, £38



**BRIGHT BASE**  
Molly glass table lamp in blue/green, £40



**MIRROR IMAGE**  
Round hanging mirror, from £45



↑ **MODERN FLORAL**  
Bluebellgray niloy mode 3 cushion (45cm sq), £70



↓ **LAYER UP**  
House by John Lewis dominoes throw, £50



← **VIBRANT ACCENTS**  
Royal Doulton shot glasses, £35 for four

## HOUSE OF FRASER



↑ **SHINE A LIGHT**  
Rhonda pendants, £70 each



↑ **DECADENT DINING**  
Plume 12-piece dinnerware set, £128

→ **NEAT ANGLES**  
Hanging pentagon lantern, from £30



↑ **FAMILY PORTRAIT**  
Wooden frame by Shabby Chic, £24



↑ **PRETTY PLANTERS**  
Herb print cushion, £25



← **SIT BACK**  
Wingback chair, £599



↑ **STRIKING SHAPE**  
Ceramic folk vase, £60



# HIGH STREET

selection of the best home accessories your local high-street stores have to offer this month



## DEBENHAMS



← **CHEVRON CHIC**  
Betty Jackson. Black  
beige velvet cushion  
(H37xW46cm), £32

→ **JUST ADD  
FLOWERS**  
RJR. John  
Rocha silver  
textured  
vase, £20

↑ **WRAP UP WARM**  
Taupe chunky  
chenille throw, £60



↑ **LOVELY SCENTS**  
Ridged glass votive candles,  
£15 for a set of three

IDEAS  
YOU'LL  
Love



**SUBTLE GREY**  
Star by Julien  
Macdonald lamp, £65



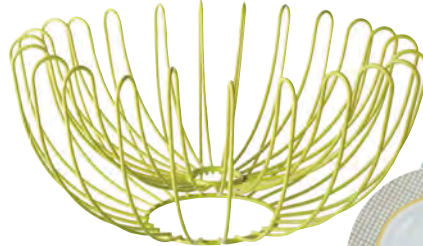
↑ **HINT OF PINK**  
Butterfly Home by  
Matthew Williamson seagrass  
baskets, from £25 each

## NEXT



← **NATURE  
INSPIRED**  
Rabbit  
couple  
ornament,  
£22

↓ **GO BRIGHT**  
Wire green bowl, £8



**CREATE A  
CONTRAST**  
Alma side table  
in blue, £60

↓ **BE ON TIME**  
House clock, £12



→ **EYE-CATCHING PATTERN**  
Carved geo rug, from £70



**SEE THE LIGHT**  
Three-shaded  
cluster pendant,  
113cm drop, £30



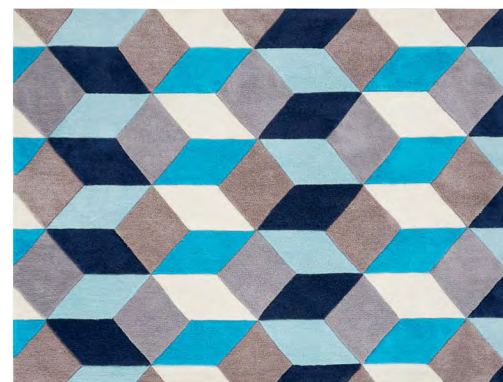
↑ **COLOURFUL TABLEWARE**  
Camden blue 12-piece  
dinner set, £32



↑ **PUT YOUR FEET UP**  
Spiral knitted pod in teal, £70

STOCKISTS  
Turn to  
page 182

FEATURE ELLEN BLAKE





# Colour of the month PURPLE

*Tipped to be one of the most desirable hues of the season, this elegant, on-trend tone will bring warmth and a touch of glamour to your home*

100+  
shopping buys



↑ **VIBRANT FINISH**  
Mirrored bedside table in purple, £290, Out There Interiors

↓ **KEEP TIME**  
Hand-painted clock in amethyst, £39, The Painted Clock at Notonthehighstreet.com



↑ **IN THE FRAME**  
Purple wooden rectangular picture frame, £19.95, Liberty



↑ **PLEATED SHADE**  
Toulouse matchstick table lamp, £25, Tesco Direct



↑ **BOLD STATEMENT**  
Blue chandelier glass lampshade, £25, George Home

→ **VINTAGE DESIGN**  
Curiosity lidded glass jar in grape, from £2.99, Dunelm



**STAY WARM**  
Berry woven throw, £15, Sainsbury's



**TRADITIONAL ELEGANCE**  
Chesterfield medium velvet sofa in plum, £899, Tesco Direct

STOCKISTS  
Turn to  
page 182





#### SOPHISTICATED LOOK

Violet floral bedding, from £39; ruffle linen double duvet cover, £89; percale pillow case, £29.50; quilted cotton throw, £115; Egyptian 230 flat double sheet, £26; Egyptian 230 pillowcase, £9.50; velvet cushion, £35; kimble nest of tables, £499; all Marks & Spencer

#### STYLING TIP

*Layer deep purples with pink watercolour florals for a more feminine look*

## ☆ Ideas ☆ PALETTE

Add shades of purple to your decorating scheme

#### LUXURY CHOICE

Wool rich 60oz twist plus carpet in plum, £32 per sq m, John Lewis

#### RICH HUE

Aubergine matt emulsion, £30 per 2.5ltr, Laura Ashley

#### LIGHTER TONE

Sumptuous plum matt paint, £24.95 per 2.5ltr, Dulux

#### → IN BLOOM

Keiko amethyst fabric, £80 per m, Bluebellgray



#### → SUBTLE SHEEN

Star by Julien Macdonald glasses, from £7 each, Debenhams



#### ↓ DEEP PURPLE

Phoebe occasional chair in aubergine, £225, Alison at Home



#### UNDER FOOT

Geometric rug, from £249, I Love Retro at Notonthehighstreet.com

## THE LOOK IN ONE BUY



INSTANT  
UPDATE

#### DRAMATIC FLORALS

Purple haze cushion, £19, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen at Littlewoods

FEATURE ELLEN BLAKE



# delivery in time for christmas

PARIS leather three seater sofa **£1499**

BOUNDARY two drawer sideboard **£499**

TWO BLOCK storage coffee table **£249**

POODLE table light **£149**

HEX side table **£179**



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→ **TILE TIME**

Gnat with glasses letter G tile, £39.50, Rory Dobner at Liberty



**WORD PLAY**

Scrabble cushion, 40cm sq, £19.96, Dotmaison



↑ **METALLIC FINISH**  
Letter A ornament (H38xW34.5xD10cm), £12, George Home



↓ **MORNING COFFEE**

Espresso cup set, £30, Design Letter at Nordic Elements



100+ shopping buys



↑ **PUT THE KETTLE ON**  
A-Z mug, £6.50, Paperchase



↑ **OFF THE WALL**

Best of London screenprint, £32, LucyLovesThis at Etsy.com

STOCKISTS  
Turn to  
page 182

→ **KITCHEN ESSENTIALS**

Storage tins, from £12 each, House of Fraser



→ **TAKE NOTE**

Vintage music ampersand, £40, Bombus



# Style spotlight Typography

*Embrace the trend for bold, monochromatic letter, number and word motifs*



↑ **CLEVER COASTERS**

Alphabet placemats, £8.95 each, Graham and Green



## HALLWAY

### ← POPPY PRINT

Chenille pleat curtain, from £59.99, Dunelm

### ← RUSTIC VASES

Glass bottles, £20 for two, House of Fraser



### ↑ LIGHT IT UP

Rusper lantern lamp, £70, Laura Ashley

### BOLD STRIPES

Cushion, £14.99, Homebase

### FOREST HUE

Terrace green emulsion, £39 per 2.5ltr, Fired Earth

### MAKE AN ENTRANCE

Portobello trestle bench in rustic pine, £99; cushions (l-r), embroidered flower cushion, £12; cut velvet stripe orange cushion, £14; autumn floral cushion, £10; all Tesco Direct



# Live the trend

Combine soft, warm neutrals and natural textures with a splash of

## LIVING

### → ABOUT TIME

Empire alarm clock, £35, Newgate Clocks

### ↓ CALM CHECK

Wool tub chair, £149.99, Dunelm

### MAN'S →

#### BEST FRIEND

Ceramic lamp, £15, George Home



### FAKE IT

Natural bricks wallpaper, £15 per roll, Next Home

### ↑ WINTER WARMER

Huntingdon 30 gas stove, from £1,295, Stovax



### COUNTRY CASUAL

Josie tub chair in natural, £129; pocket watch style clock, £37; all Littlewoods



## KITCHEN

### ← SOOTHING SAGE SHADE

Mizzle No. 266 estate emulsion, £36 per 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

### ← LOVELY IN LACE

Floris cereal bowls, £35 for a set of four, Loaf



### → STURDY OAK

Henriksdal chair frame, £60, Ikea



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### ↑ MULTI-TASKER

Abbotsford amberly chopping block, £229, This Home



### RUSTIC KITCHEN

Decorative jar, £24.99; chopping boards, from £6.99; copper pots, £15.99; all Homesense



# COUNTRY

colour for a modern take on this season's classic look

100+  
shopping buys

## BEDROOM

### ← DELICATE FLORALS

Emeline linen fabric in ivory/olive, £90 per m, Sanderson



### ↑ TACTILE JUG

Textured line jug vase, £29.50, Marks & Spencer



### WARM GREY

Welcome (109) matt emulsion, £18 per 1ltr, Little Greene

### ← LEADING LIGHT

Franco desk lamp, £45, Habitat



### ← SIMPLE DESIGN

Essence oak bedside table, £225, John Lewis



### RESTFUL PATTERN

Natural leaf curtain, £25; natural leaf bed set, from £30; fitted sheet and pillowcases from £10; ginger check blanket, from £25; all Next Home



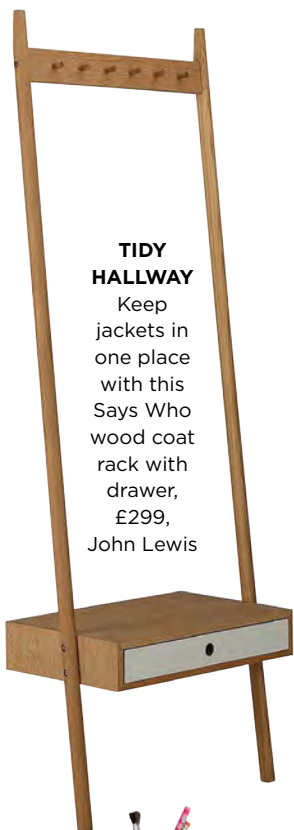


# Smart solutions STORAGE

Banish the clutter and re-organise your living spaces this new year with these clever ideas

## TIDY HALLWAY

Keep jackets in one place with this Says Who wood coat rack with drawer, £299, John Lewis



↑ **TWO-IN-ONE**  
Hide toothbrushes and toiletries in this Compass cabinet, £260, Obi Furniture



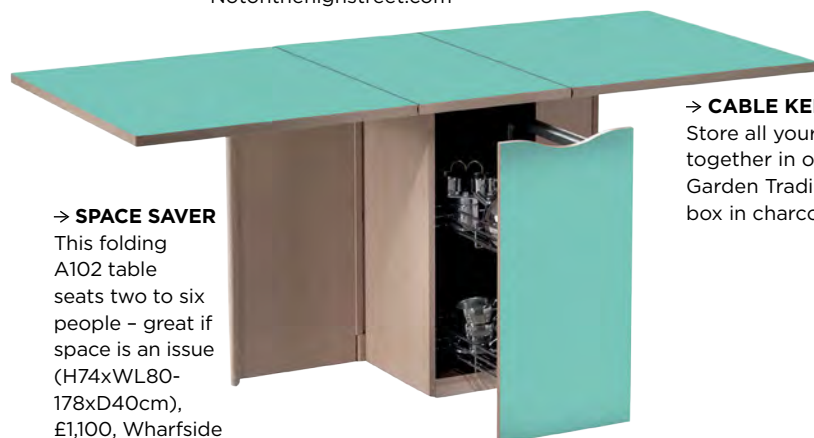
## ↑ PERFECT FOR KIDS

Keep your playroom tidy with this dachshund cardboard dog, £34.95, Notonthehighstreet.com



## → SPACE SAVER

This folding A102 table seats two to six people – great if space is an issue (H74xW180-178xD40cm), £1,100, Wharfside



## → CABLE KEEPER

Store all your chargers together in one place with Garden Trading's charger box in charcoal, £18.50



## ← HUNG UP

Keep scarves, ties and belts neat and tidy by hanging them up, £11.99, Great British Designs



STOCKISTS  
Turn to  
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100+ shopping buys

**BE BOX CLEVER**

Make a feature of your living room storage with these King Crate Mate shelves, £495; large cloud chaise sofa, £1,695; wibbly small cushion, £40; churnie milk churn, £45 for a set of three; all Loaf. Revival radio, from £160, Roberts Radio. For similar box files try Paperchase.

**↓ READING MATERIAL**

Keep your favourite magazines to read later on in this felt magazine holder, £24, Red Candy



**↑ STYLISH SOLUTION**

Idyll Home's metal storage trunks are ideal for storing keepsakes, from £69 each



**↓ ON THE SHELF**

Keep books all in one place with this storage unit on wheels, £399, Made.com



**↓ STACK AND STORE**

This blackboard stacking storage box, £29 from the Great Little Trading Company, can be stacked up to save on floor space



**↑ DESK TIDY**

Create the perfect workspace with this Cato white desk (H77xW45xL75cm) £125, Habitat



IDEAS YOU'LL Love

**THREE INNOVATIVE TECH BUYS**

Looking to organise your pictures and music? Try these three smart buys

SCAN IT



**↑ ION SLIDESTOREFOREVER FILM AND SLIDE SCANNER, £39.99, MAPLIN**

If folders full of negatives are causing clutter, use this portable film-to-PC scanner to convert old 35mm film negatives into digital files that can be viewed at any time.

PLAY IT



**↑ ARCHIVE LP, £79.99, ION**

Music-lovers can convert all their favourite vinyls into digital music files stored on the computer with this clever device, which works via USB, meaning your favourite tracks will never fade or degrade in quality.

COPY IT



**↑ MAGIC WAND PORTABLE SCANNER, £199, AMAZON**

This clever device scans colour and black-and-white images with just a wave of your hand. The image is saved directly on to a memory card (sold separately, from £3.99).





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**1**  
**OAK FINISH**  
Pure evoke  
D2 DAB/FM  
digital radio,  
John Lewis

£84.99



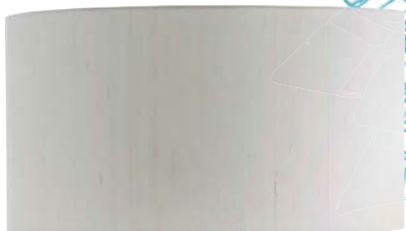
**2**  
**DELICATE  
DESIGN**  
Pols Potten  
ironwork sunflower  
mirror (Dia60cm),  
Amara

£79.96



**3**  
**12-PIECE SET**  
Gordon Ramsay maze  
dining set in teal, Dunelm

£49.99



**4**  
**SOLID ASH**  
Lansbury  
wooden floor  
lamp base,  
Habitat

£90

# 10 under £100

*Instantly update your decor for less with our pick of stylish furniture and accessories*



**5**  
**PURE WOOL**  
Hatchy cushion in blue/yellow  
(48cm sq), Donna Wilson

£72.50

EDITOR'S PICK



**8**  
**GOOD QUALITY**  
Double  
bedspread  
in turquoise  
cotton,  
H&M Home

£69.99



**6**  
**FRAME INCLUDED**  
Wooden  
falling leaves  
tree wall art,  
Debenhams

£40



**7**  
**METAL FINISH**  
Cut-out  
wall clock  
(Dia70cm),  
Next Home

£60



**9**  
**IN EIGHT COLOURS**  
Sabichi  
pouffe,  
Littlewoods

£75



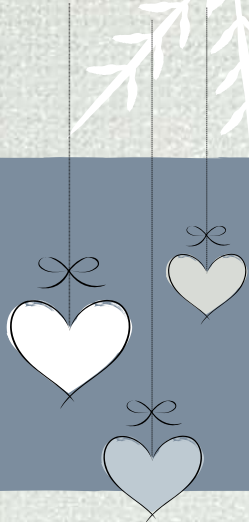
**10**  
**THREE IN ONE**  
Multi-coloured  
nest of tables,  
Homebase

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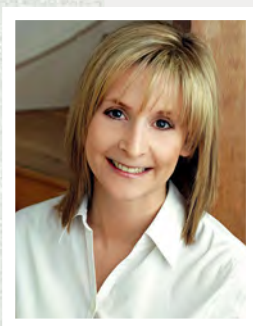
£89.99

FEATURE ELLEN BLAKE





# The perfect



*Our promise to you... As well as **more** ideas and **extra** pages, new-look Good Homes comes with our **guarantee** that every issue will have the latest*

***seasonal** shopping ideas, the **best** real homes, the most **inspiring** decorating schemes and **impressive** makeovers, plus much more. This issue comes with a **free** £15 ticket for The Cake & Bake Show, **exclusive** Ikea discount offer and £1,000 flooring **competition**. To ensure you don't miss out, take up our **special** subscription offer today.*

*Lisa*

LISA ALLEN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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# Your free ticket to THE CAKE & BAKE SHOW

*Good Homes* readers receive a complimentary ticket to any show taking place in 2015



#### MASTER BAKER

Learn a new skill at one of the classes



#### BAKE

#### SUPER THEATRE

Take part in the live cookery demos



#### THE MARKETPLACE

Sample many of the latest ingredients

#### LIVE DEMOS

Whether you want to fill your house with the aroma of freshly baked bread, impress friends and family with your home-baking skills or demonstrate your creative flair, you'll find inspiration and baking madness at The Cake & Bake Show.

With delicious demonstrations, expert masterclasses, live bake-offs, hundreds of exhibitors, plus renowned baking stars (last year's events saw appearances from chef Phil Vickery, Lisa Faulkner, Eric Lanlard and the Fabulous Baker Brothers) you'll find everything you need to perfect your skills.

There are four fantastic venues for 2015 to choose from: London, Manchester, Harrogate or Edinburgh, and your free ticket is valid at any show on any Friday. For more details visit [www.thecakeandbakeshow.co.uk](http://www.thecakeandbakeshow.co.uk).



## WHAT TO SEE AND DO

■ **Star speakers** Watch renowned bakers demonstrate their expertise in the live theatre areas. Previous stars have included the Fabulous Baker Brothers, Phil Vickery, Rachel Khoo, Simon Rimmer, Rosemary Shrager and many more.

■ **The Cake & Bake super theatre**

A full programme of experts and celebrities from the cake and bake world will take to the stage every day in a series of delicious demonstrations.

■ **The classrooms** Learn a new skill or pick up a secret ingredient at one of the many expert masterclasses – from decorating to the secret of bread making.

■ **The marketplace** A food lover's delight – taste, touch, try and buy all the latest, mouth-watering array of freshly baked produce and ingredients.

■ **Cake decorating demos** Amaze your guests with your new decorating skills.

### TOP DECORATING

Make cakes with the wow factor



### BREAD SCHOOL

Who knew baking was so much fun?



### CELEBRITY CHEFS



Watch live cookery demos at the theatre



CUT OUT THIS TICKET TO GAIN FREE ENTRY

## Free ticket

**TICKET IS ONLY REDEEMABLE ONCE FOR ONE PERSON ON ANY FRIDAY AT ANY CAKE & BAKE SHOW VENUE IN 2015 (WORTH £15)**

Please complete your details below and bring this ticket to the box office at the show

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

This ticket allows free entry for one person (worth £15) to The Cake & Bake Show on any Friday at shows in London, Manchester, Harrogate or Edinburgh in 2015. Without this ticket you will be charged the full entrance fee. Personal details (above) must be completed to validate this free ticket. Copies of this ticket will not be accepted.



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# Creating a HOME WITH STYLE

*Be inspired by these beautiful real homes,  
full of festive ideas for the new season*

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Get the look

p84



p64



p52





# *‘A light, open-plan space was my dream’*

*Maria Myers took inspiration from her childhood living by the beach to create a stylish home that's filled with white-painted furniture for a peaceful feel*





**FULL OF SPARKLE**

Maria maximised the feeling of light in the living room by painting the walls and ceiling in brilliant white matt emulsion, while all white from Farrow & Ball was chosen for the woodwork







#### ← LET THERE BE LIGHT

Maria describes the look of the dining room as Nordic beach. The chandelier above the table is a replica of an antique French design and is from Chic Shack

#### → PRACTICAL, CLEAN DESIGN

Built around an island unit, the white-painted kitchen cabinets are fitted with marble worktops. The *Ile de Rê* motif behind the Lacanche cooker is a transfer made by a local printer

#### ↘ TREE MAGIC

Following in the tradition of much of the house, the family's Christmas tree is white and stylishly decorated with large silver and gold decorations

## HOUSE DETAILS



### HOMEOWNERS

Maria, who runs interiors shop Chic Shack, and husband Gary Myers

**AGES** Both 48

### FAMILY

Freddie, 16, Tommy, 14, Salvador, 8 and Balthazar, 5

### LOCATION

South-west London

### PROPERTY

1930s semi-detached five-bedroom house

### QUICK BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Extension	£50,000
Garage conversion	£15,000
Veranda	£6,000
Garden landscaping and planting	£15,000
Bathrooms	£15,000
Kitchen	£15,000
Furniture	£7,000
Decorating	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£128,000</b>

### PURCHASE PRICE

**£650,000**

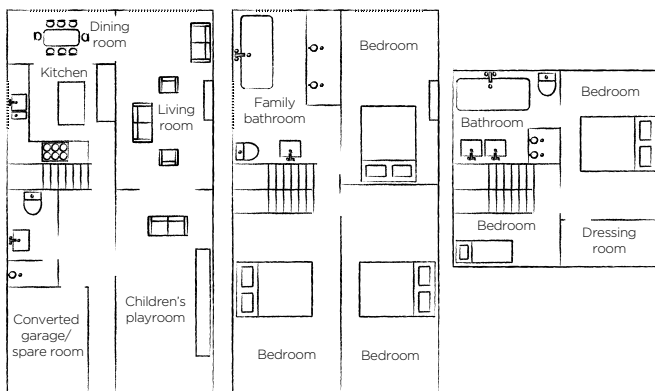
### OUTLAY TO DATE

**£128,000**

### VALUED NOW AT

**£1.7M**





GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

LOFT CONVERSION

#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

The property is set over three floors, which includes a loft conversion that houses two bedrooms, a dressing room and bathroom. On the first floor are three further bedrooms and a family bathroom







**B**efore I started planning our house, I visualised the finished project. I wanted it to be light and open plan, and remind me of living by the beach,' says Maria Myers, explaining how she approached a major refurbishment on her family home in south-west London. Both she and husband Gary were born in South Africa, and Maria's childhood was spent there and in Portugal, her parents' home country. 'We moved to London because of Gary's work in the music industry, but I started looking around for something creative to do myself. I'd studied interior design in Lisbon, so I opened a small shop selling furniture and bed linen, and that was the beginning of Chic Shack,' recalls Maria.

The relaxed, open-air lifestyle of Maria's early years was the inspiration behind the first range of stylish white-painted furniture. 'I love that look of fresh white paint – it makes me think of blue skies and warm evenings,' she says, glancing up wistfully at the wintry grey English sky. 'White homes have such a peaceful atmosphere.' She thinks that people often think of white as being an impractical colour choice for a family home, but she points out that it depends what sort of fabrics you use, and your use of finishes. 'Loose cotton covers can be taken off and washed. And white paint on walls and floors is the easiest and cheapest colour to paint over or re-touch.' Maria also firmly believes that the secret to creating a successful interior-design scheme is to try to keep the main living areas as clutter-free as possible.

Maria's skills as a designer extend far beyond organising storage and loose covers, and this house demonstrates her abilities as both a designer and project manager. The arrival of their third baby precipitated the family's search for a new home and location was an important factor. 'As soon as we saw this house we realised it was the one. It was near our shop and warehouse, the boys' school was within walking

#### ↑ NEUTRAL LOOK

Toning walls, floors and distressed furniture in off-white creates a feeling of space and gives each room a tranquil atmosphere; highlighted by the twinkling tree lights

#### → DRAMATIC FEATURE WALL

Bold red-and-white stripes create a vibrant look in the boys' bedroom. An extra bed for sleepovers is tucked neatly into the space beneath the Hampton bunk beds from Maria's store Chic Shack. The bright red bed linen is from Lexington





*‘After a couple of years living in an all-white house, I decided to add some colour upstairs’*







distance and the back garden was a good size. With a family of energetic boys we needed a football pitch!’ However, the three-bedroom house was slightly on the small side. ‘We decided to target the downstairs living area and with a total re-think of the rooms we would be able to increase the living space on the ground floor and add more bedrooms,’ she explains. Maria needed an office and they also wanted a spare room for their many guests: friends and family who often visit from South Africa and Portugal. They gutted the house, reorganising the space to make it work for their family. Maria chose wooden floors and added individual style with tongue and groove on many of the walls. One of her most practical ideas was to convert the garage into a bedroom. The loft seemed the most suitable area to convert to a spacious main bedroom, with en-suite bathroom, creating a retreat for Maria and Gary.

Maria’s solution for the ground floor was to design a rear extension spanning the whole width of the house, creating space for a new dining area as well as enlarging the living room. ‘The original front reception room became a family room and those extra feet of space at the back gave us a second seating area overlooking the garden,’ she explains. The kitchen and dining area was designed by Maria and made up in the Chic Shack workrooms. It is open-plan, but she has given it a soft-edged, welcoming feel with painted wooden units, and tiles and splashback in harmonious off-white. One of Maria’s signature chandeliers hangs over the dining table in pride of place. And with a family of four boys, everything has to be built to withstand a tough level of use. But that doesn’t stop Maria adding her own branch of airy prettiness to the mix, of which she says: ‘Keep things simple and then you can easily replace, repaint or repair if someone has a disaster.’

‘I suppose it’s because I grew up in the sun, but for me the most important thing is to maximise that feeling of openness and light,’ says Maria. Downstairs all is gleaming white, which adds to the sense of one room flowing easily into the next. But Maria added some colour in the bedrooms to make things feel cosy. She painted one of the boys’ bedrooms in red and white stripes and in the main bedroom, papered ▶

#### ↑ **GOOD MATCH**

Sparkling white Thassos marble and white sanitaryware were a specification for the en suite bathroom. The walls have been painted in bold stripes of delicious pink by Crown Paints

#### → **VIBRANT CHOICE**

Try Broadwick Street Rosea wallpaper by Little Greene to brighten up a bedroom; team with a matching design for bedding, cushions and throws







## IDEAS TO STEAL

Take inspiration from Maria's decorative finishing touches



### ^ GROUP FRAMES TOGETHER

Choose vintage-inspired mirrors with decorative edges for a shabby-chic-style display on a plain white wall



### ^ PUT A NAME TO IT

Fix 3D letters to the wall in a child's room, especially in a shared bedroom, to give them a sense of their own space



### ^ ADD GLITZ AND GLAMOUR

Create a magical table setting with an array of glass plates, tealights, candlesticks and delicate crystal





one wall in a vibrant pink floral design. 'Gary jokes that it's my pink allowance. I think he felt that a flash of hot colour would be playful in this room,' she adds.

Maria's wish list also included a veranda. She says the family likes to be in the garden but the weather often spoils things. 'With a big table at one end and a seating area at the other, it's become our outdoor living room. And it gives me another area where I can indulge my passion for candles and fairy lights.' The white wooden veranda echoes the feel inside the house, which has what Maria calls a Nordic beach feel. The white tongue-and-groove boarding in many of the rooms, including the dining room, kitchen and some of the bedrooms, gives the house a laid-back coastal style. She has also used plantation shutters throughout the house to enhance the dappled sunlight coming through the windows. 'I don't have anything against curtains,' she says, 'it's just that they didn't suit the look I was after.' Simple white-painted floors and walls, combined with white loose furniture covers, and white-painted furniture creates a relaxed family home that's great for parties and entertaining. During the New Year celebrations, this is heightened. 'My tree is in the living room and of course I insist that it's always an all-white affair. It looks magical – I like the room to have a festive air but retain a feeling of serenity,' says Maria.

On New Year's Eve, she adds: 'We always eat by candlelight – it's our tradition.' She lays the table with white china and tealights, and hangs glass baubles on winter branches, and they see in the New Year with friends and family from near and far.

#### ↑ SIMPLE COMFORT

A pair of Veneza sleigh beds in a classic colonial mahogany finish creates a simple yet sophisticated look in the guest bedroom

#### → ROOM FOR ALL

In the family bathroom, there's a freestanding bath with central taps, an Antonio Lupi double basin from West One Bathrooms and a large shower cubicle with twin showerheads







## IDEAS TO STEAL

Transform any room in your home using Maria's clever styling



### ^ DOUBLE-UP YOUR BASINS

These work well for large families or couples who don't like to share the same sink



### ^ ADD A TOUCH OF FUN

Paint a section of wall with blackboard paint in a family room to provide instant writing and doodle space



### ^ CREATE A WINTER WONDERLAND

Don't forget your outside space: use fairy lights and add candles and lanterns to a table for a festive look



## Good choice

→ Add glamour with the Romance clear nine-arm chandelier from Marks & Spencer – its hanging glass beads and droplets will sparkle when lit



£35

↑ Designed for House of Fraser, this embroidered Linea star cushion (45cm sq) adds a bright pop of colour



£199

£20 PER ROLL

If rigid lines seem a bit harsh, then opt for this fluid waterfall red stripe wallpaper instead, Graham & Brown

## Luxury touch

← Artisanti's Solaise antique beaded chandelier has clear hanging teardrop pendants and a dappled silver finish to give it a distressed look



£254

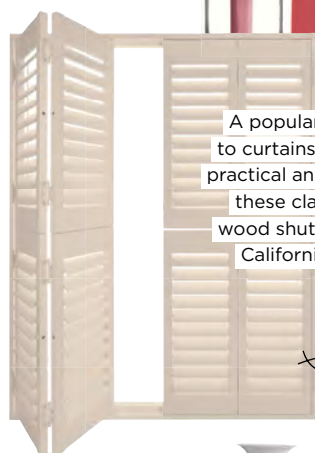
£59

↑ This bright-red Lexington authentic star cushion cover is covered in dainty white stars, 50cm sq, Amara



For a bold effect, look no further than this smart red and white Nantucket stripe wallpaper from Fabrics & Papers

£49.95 PER ROLL



A popular alternative to curtains, shutters are practical and look smart – these classic poplar wood shutters are from California Shutters

£178 PER SQ M

Keep out the light and draughts with these white two-panel 11.4cm push-rod shutters, Shutterly Fabulous



£290 PER SQ M

STOCKISTS  
Turn to page 182

£24

↓ Keep good time with this polished stainless-steel clock with a white dial (Dia25cm), KitchenCraft at Wayfair



£22.21

For an ornate finish, choose this shabby-chic wooden ivory Louis mirror (H124xW79cm), Ayers & Graces



£265

← Copy Maria's candelabra style with this three-armed design by Gisela Graham at The Contemporary Home



→ This ornate distressed white candelabra would look great as a centrepiece or on a sideboard, The Orchard



£66

↓ Newgate's Fifties electric clock comes in smart chrome with metal casing (Dia37cm), Hinton's Home



£66

Perfect for a bedroom, this Josephine mirror (H120xW100cm) has pretty detailing, Brissi at John Lewis



£320

## Price patrol GET MARIA'S LOOK

Choose a pure-white palette and team with hits of colour and classic accessories to emulate Maria Myers' home



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## ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

The painting of Ratwick Bay by local artist Alan Watson dictates the black and off-white colour scheme throughout the whole house







*‘Designing the  
perfect home was  
a labour of love’*

*Influenced by her Scandinavian connections,  
Marian Gerry has created a home that is  
truly functional as well as inviting*



*'We wanted to be able to batten down the hatches on a cold winter evening'*



## HOUSE DETAILS



### HOMEOWNERS

Marian Gerry, a psychotherapist, and husband Steven Beaven, a GP

### AGES

Both 59

### LOCATION

Perthshire, Scotland

### PROPERTY

Zinc-roofed contemporary home

### QUICK BUDGET BREAKDOWN

<b>Construction</b>	£280,000
<b>Architect</b>	£23,000
<b>Bathrooms</b>	£5,000
<b>Kitchen</b>	£16,100
<b>Furniture</b>	£10,000
<b>Flooring</b>	£4,300
<b>Wood burner</b>	£1,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£339,800</b>

### PURCHASE PRICE

**£230,000**

### OUTLAY TO DATE

**£339,800**

### VALUED NOW AT

**£569,000**





#### ← CALM SETTING

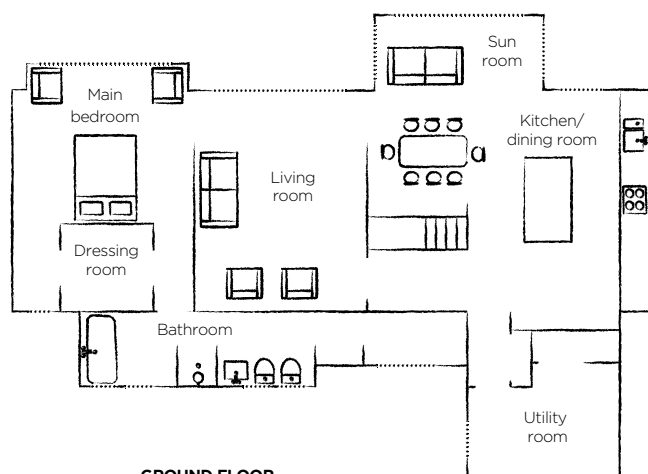
In the living room, the Norwegian Jøtul stove from the County Woodburning Centre takes centre stage. The drum pouffe with removable tray by Softline is from Utility Design. The replica Hans J Wenger armchairs in wool are from Vita Interiors

#### ↑ RECESSED STORAGE

The alcove walls were painted black, making the shelves stand out

#### ↓ A SENSE OF BALANCE

Two half-width shelves display black-and-white artwork that the couple has collected over the years



#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

On the ground floor the main bedroom, dressing area and bathroom are accessed through the living room. Stairs lead to a mezzanine floor, which houses a double guest bedroom and WC in the eaves







Following several years of living on the island of Orkney, off the north of Scotland, Marian Gerry and her husband Steven Beaven moved to the mainland to build a home that would take them into their retirement. Marian explains: 'Steven was a GP on Orkney for 25 years and very much part of the community. I liked living there, but my work was in Edinburgh so we decided to move.' The couple chose to settle in Perthshire, which has easy access to Edinburgh and Glasgow, yet is only a stone's throw from some of the best areas for climbing and walking in Scotland; a hobby that they both enjoy. 'I could persuade Steven out of Orkney, but I couldn't entice him to a city. Perthshire is a perfect compromise for us,' says Marian.

The couple rented in three different villages over three years before deciding where they wanted to build. 'Our wish list included living in a village that had a strong community feel, and shops we could walk to for our milk and newspaper. We wanted easy access to major roads and to be close to the hills,' says Marian. After looking in the area for 18 months, she spotted a 1970s bungalow with a large established garden on a quiet street close to the heart of the village. Despite the recession, nine people submitted their closed bids, as is the custom in the Scottish housing market. 'We made a bid that we could afford, but had to prepare ourselves not to be disappointed if we lost the bid. Very luckily we were successful,' she explains.

She and Steven moved into the bungalow and lived there for two years while they planned the building of their new home. As a result of their imagination and their collaboration with their architect, the home is a stunning combination of large open-plan rooms divided into functional, smaller spaces, simple black-and-white decor, stylish furniture and beautiful artwork. It all adds up to make this home a peaceful ►

## ↑ DREAM KITCHEN

Architect Colin Smith has designed a double-height ceiling in the rooms that are mostly used by day, such as the kitchen, to create a feeling of space

## → CAREFULLY ZONED

The dining room has a lower ceiling to create more ambience for entertaining. China, glass and artwork in Scandinavian blue provide the only colour in the room. The Ercol dining table is from The Conran Shop and the replica Eames DSR chairs are from Vita Interiors





*‘Nordic houses are really well designed.  
They are functional and practical with  
clean lines and light tones’*







haven that is cleverly designed using the best of modern technology and traditional materials. 'We chose Colin Smith from CASArchitects to do the designs, having seen a couple of houses he had designed locally with curved zinc roofs,' says Marian.

Steven is half Norwegian and Marian also has a deep love of the Scandinavian way of life and innate sense of style. 'Nordic houses are really well designed. They are functional and practical, with clean lines and light tones. A connection to the outdoors is very important, too,' she says. Marian and Steven's brief to the architect was for the house to be built on the footprint of the existing bungalow and bedded into the plot. Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors would provide access to the garden and a roof with a wide overhang would create shelter for an outdoor seating area.

They wanted the interior to be largely open plan, but divided into different activity areas using bookcases and furniture. A ground-floor main bedroom, dressing area and bathroom would be accessed through the living room. The bathroom also has a door at the other end, enabling people to enter from the hall. The living space most often used during the day would have high ceilings, whereas areas used in the evening would have lower ones. 'We wanted to be able to batten down the hatches on a cold winter evening. High ceilings don't allow for that,' Marian explains. To give the rooms a cosy feel, Colin designed large ceiling-height sliding doors between the spaces, which can be left open during the day to allow the heat, air and light to flow. Closed, they create a warm, intimate space. 'Colin paid a lot of attention to what we needed, then designed a floorplan and wrapped a building around it.' The house design sailed through planning permission, despite its location in a conservation ►

## ↑ EASY CIRCULATION

Marian stands in the doorway between the dining and living areas, showing how the spaces in this home flow naturally from one room to the next

## → COLOUR CODED

Black, white and blue books have been chosen for the bookcase in the dining room, which also displays precious pieces of china, glass or artwork





## IDEAS TO STEAL

*Copy Marian's finishing touches to add interest to white surfaces*



### ^ DISPLAY PERSONAL ITEMS

Half-width shelving is perfect for showing off artwork and ornaments in different colours and materials



STOCKISTS  
Turn to  
page 182

### ^ PICK COSY LIGHTING

Danish tealight holders provide a soft glow. For similar, try this set of three, £34.95, [Notonthehighstreet.com](http://Notonthehighstreet.com)



### ^ ADD A TOUCH OF COLOUR

Bring an all-white room scheme into sharp relief with pops of colour, such as citrus tones of flowers and fruit







area and its contemporary design. 'Building on an existing footprint probably eased the planning process,' says Marian. Once permission was granted, she and Steven moved out of the bungalow into the house next door to allow the building to be flattened and building work to begin. They chose to employ the joint services of the architect and a building company, Carmichaels & Son, to project manage the build. 'This freed us up to do the research and source the different materials required,' Marian continues. 'For example, Steven found a zinc company in Hamilton, which saved us £12,000 on the original price quoted for the roof.'

Marian sourced the lighting, flooring, bathrooms and engineered staircase. She has saved money by buying high-street furniture and covering it in designer fabric, or by using modern reproductions of classic mid-century furniture. She also designed the kitchen and then commissioned a local joiner to build it. 'I knew what I wanted and didn't really like any of the kitchens we'd seen, so I commissioned Roger Mailer to build us one,' she says. The outcome is a very simple design in tongue and groove – a nod to Scandinavia without being too obvious – which won't date.

A year later Marian and Steven were finally able to move into their new home. 'It was a mixed blessing living next door to the project. It was great to be so involved, but we were impatient to see it finished,' she says. Once in, Marian was able to set about styling – her love of interiors has led her to take two interior-design courses and a lighting course over the years. 'Our interior is inspired by a painting of Ratwick Bay on the island of Hoy, where Steven used to fish. Featuring dramatic cliffs and seascape in black and white, the painting by Alan Watson, a local artist, was given to Steven as a leaving present by his colleagues and patients on Orkney.'

The background colour scheme for walls, floors and furniture is either white or black, with accents of raspberry, Scandinavian-style cobalt or cornflower blue. The result is straightforward and remarkably peaceful. 'This house suits us perfectly now, and I know that in 20 years' time it will still work for us,' says Marian. 'There is something hugely satisfying about building a house just for us.'

## ↑ STORAGE GENIUS

A false wall behind the headboard houses dressing-room cupboards, keeping clutter in the bedroom to a minimum. Marian has covered the headboard in black linen and made cushions from fabric printed to order from Marram Studio – an Orkney-based company. She has made curtains for the bedroom and living room in Putkinotko fabric by Marimekko, £39 per m, from Nord Design





## IDEAS TO STEAL

Use natural and artificial light to enhance your living space



### ^ PICK GLOWING COLOURS

Handmade glass bottles displayed on a windowsill reflect the sunlight, adding colour to a room



### ^ CHOOSE SOFT WHITE LIGHTS

Pendant lights hanging from a high ceiling make a feature of the space and can be dimmed at night



### ^ DISPLAY FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

This Norwegian lamp, on a set of drawers in the guest bedroom, belonged to Steven's grandmother



### ↑ DOUBLE ENDED

Behind the main bedroom is a large bathroom, which can also be accessed from the hall, using a separate entrance door

### ← SNUG FIT

Set under a curved ceiling, the guest bedroom includes wooden furniture made by a friend who is a carpenter



GET THE LOOK  
Turn to the  
following page



## Good choice

£18

This dark grey Tennessee fabric ottoman bed frame (H130xW140xL210cm) from Debenhams has storage underneath

£725

↓ Lakeland Furniture's Eames Replica DSR chair comes in seven colours, including pure white

£49.99

↑ Ideal for reading on the sofa, Ikea's Kvarf floor lamp in black is adjustable

↓ Add colour with the Cerise Piper cushion (45cm sq) by Bluebellgray at Amara

£44

£27.99  
PER SQ M

For a white-washed-style floor, choose this Impressive Ultra Concrete wood in light grey, Quick-Step

## Luxury touch

£895

Add hotel-chic to your bedroom with this Samphire double divan (H135xW137xL201cm) in coal soft wool, Button & Sprung

£109.18

→ The jet-black finish of this Mark Slojd Mossebo 1 Light floor lamp gives it a smart look, Wayfair

Adventino's elegant cobalt Basis jug has a modern shape and gently curved rims, with a 1.5ltr capacity

£25

This iconic Eames DSR chair has a moulded seat on a chrome base, John Lewis

£223

↓ Multiyork's scatter cushion in spectrum pall mall fabric (53cm sq) will add comfort and colour

STOCKISTS  
Turn to  
page 182

£65

£100.09  
PER SQ M

These hand-finished boards have an aged feel to recreate worn floorboards, Latimer Oak flooring at Urbane Living

£1,600

£999

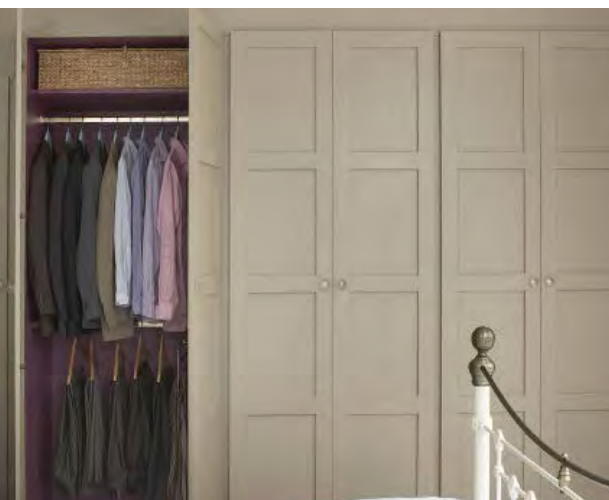
The Walseley sofa in Arran dark grey (H90xW213xD97cm) combines classic British looks with Ian Mankin fabric, Made.com

Sofa.com's The Salute sofa in cuckoo recycled wool (H89xW215xD98cm) will complement a neutral scheme

# Price patrol GET MARIAN'S LOOK

Team greys and whites with a few pops of colour to recreate Marian's smart interior for yourself





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# *‘Living by the sea was a big draw’*

*Pretty bay windows and stunning high  
ceilings attracted Nicola Law to this  
seaside property in East Sussex*





**MINIMAL CHIC**

Although located on the lower ground floor, the kitchen is kept bright and airy by using light shades throughout, such as the Caesarstone worktops and white streamlined kitchen units from Dean Hunter Kitchens







## HOUSE DETAILS



### HOMEOWNER

Nicola Law, who runs a local nursery

**AGE** 45

### FAMILY

Sons Marcus, 16, and Brandon, 9

### LOCATION

Hove, East Sussex

### PROPERTY

Three-bedroom end-of-terrace period house

### QUICK BUDGET BREAKDOWN

#### Internal

**construction** £50,000

**Bathrooms** £10,000

**Kitchen** £11,000

**Furniture** £2,000

**Decorating** £2,000

**TOTAL** £75,000

### PURCHASE PRICE

**£550,00**

### OUTLAY TO DATE

**£75,000**

### VALUED NOW AT

**£650,000**



*'I love the style  
of the house,  
living by the  
sea and the  
buzz of the  
neighbourhood'*



#### ← HOME COMFORTS

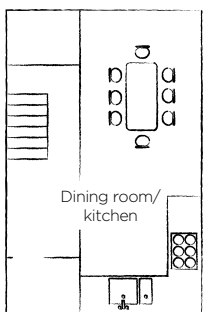
Linen cushions from Coach House Home and soft cowhide rugs create the perfect place for Nicola to relax in front of a roaring fire in winter

#### ↑ TIME TO TALK

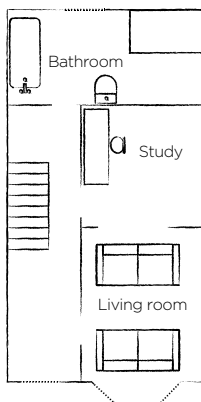
The whole family likes to sit around the large island in the kitchen

#### ↓ ADD TEXTURE

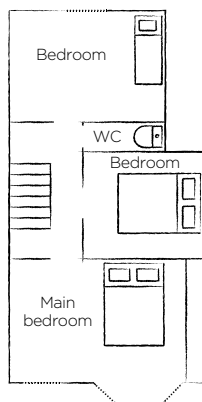
Nicola has warmed up the oak floorboards with a woollen runner



LOWER GROUND FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

On the lower ground floor is an open-plan kitchen and dining area that leads out on to a patio. The ground floor houses the living room, study and family bathroom, and the three bedrooms and a WC are on the top floor







Nicola Law couldn't be happier with her home on the south coast. 'I love Victorian houses, living by the sea, the buzz of summer and the promenade,' she says. Nicola and ex-husband Martin had been renovating a property in a northern suburb of Brighton, but they didn't enjoy it. 'At the time it was a way of raising some capital to afford the property and the area we wanted to live in,' she explains. 'When we were able to move back to the seafront in Hove, where we had once lived, it was like going home.'

They bought the three-storey house five years ago from an elderly woman who had been renting out the lower ground floor as a separate self-contained flat, while living in the maisonette above. 'It hadn't been touched for years,' says Nicola. 'It was very tired and needed a lot of work to turn it back into a family home, but we saw beyond this. Not only was the location ideal, but the architectural style really drew us to the property. With its pretty bay-frontage and high ceilings it was perfect.'

The couple had already decided on the new layout of the house before they moved in, reconfiguring it mentally to suit the way they live. 'We gave it a great deal of thought, but we couldn't agree on the basement layout,' remembers Nicola. 'Initially, Martin wanted two separate rooms, but I wanted it to be open plan to allow the light to flow from the front to the back. Luckily I won him over.'

With all the plans in place, they began the conversion of the basement flat as soon as they moved in. The small kitchen, located at the back of the house, became the laundry room. The bathroom, living room and bedroom were knocked through, and large steel beams were installed for support, creating an open-plan space. The work in the basement took six months. Nicola explains: 'It would have been quicker if the Caeserstone worktops hadn't taken six weeks to arrive from Italy. At the time we didn't realise that Italians have the month of August off. But it was worth waiting for, as I wanted something that would not mark or scratch in any way and it fitted ►

#### ↑ LET IN LIGHT

The bespoke French doors that lead out on to the patio were made by local carpenters Dinnages. Nicola has decorated the plain wall with two ornate candleholders from antiques store Three Angels

#### MAKE IT COSY →

Nicola has installed double-glazed doors that lead from the dining room into the hallway to open up the space visually, while also keeping draughts out. The original stairs lead up to the ground floor, which has been linked to the basement





## IDEAS TO STEAL

*Take inspiration from Nicola's keen eye for vintage details*



### ^ ADD TEXTURE

Group a collection of wooden chopping boards and antique ceramics to create a rustic feel



### ^ USE SOFT TONES

Play with neutral shades of old pewter and sepia prints to add interest to a neglected corner



### ^ REFLECT LIGHT

Use different styles of glassware on a dining table to give the room a bright feel by reflecting the sunlight







*'Some of my favourite things are from antiques shops, like the ornate mirror in my bedroom'*

the bill perfectly.' On a more practical level, Nicola says: 'The advice I would give to anyone who is thinking of turning a divided house back into one family home would be to convert one self-contained area first. We kept the basement completely separate and lived in the maisonette, so we had virtually no disruption to our daily life.' The internal staircase and landing was sealed off, and the flat had its own separate outside entrance for the builders to access it. 'Once the basement was finished and we could use the downstairs kitchen, we started work on the maisonette. While the builders did all the structural work, Martin did all the decorating,' she says.

Nicola loved taking charge of the interior design of the house and created mood boards using magazine cuttings and fabric swatches. 'I wanted it to feel both rustic and modern,' she says. It was also important to give the home a sense of continuity throughout, so it wouldn't feel like two distinct spaces. 'One of the ways I went about this was to paint the whole of the interior in the same colour and to lay wooden floors downstairs to echo the original flooring upstairs,' says Nicola. 'In the kitchen I have used clean simple lines, without wall units and handles, to give it a modern feel, but the wide oak floorboards soften the look and create a rustic edge.' In terms of furniture and accessories, Nicola buys a lot of things from car boot sales and antiques fairs. 'I go to the Goodwood Antique and Collectors fair and we also have a fantastic local antiques shop called Three Angels, where I have found some of my favourite things like the French chandeliers and the ornate mirror in my bedroom,' she says.

The renovation went relatively smoothly, apart from a few issues. Nicola explains: 'Discovering that the bay window was collapsing due to damp was no fun, but that is the downside of buying an old property.' Nicola's next project will be to install an en-suite bathroom for the main bedroom. 'In the meantime I am just happy to be by the sea, to enjoy the buzz of our local area and be able to walk to work,' she adds.

#### ↑ CALM RETREAT

The mohair throw gives the bed a cosy feel; for similar try John Lewis. Linen cushions from Coach House Home add texture and warmth to the simple bedroom

#### → IN THE MIX

An old chair picked up from a car-boot sale adds character to the rustic bathroom. Nicola wanted the wooden floorboards to run into the bathroom from the hallway, so she has laid limestone tiles around them





## IDEAS TO STEAL

*Use Nicola's pared-back, rustic style in your own home*



### ^ CHOOSE A FRESH PALETTE

Bring a natural feel into the kitchen with a group of cut flowers, a flowering plant and fresh herbs



### ^ ADD DECORATIVE TOUCHES

An old carved wooden table makes the perfect bedside table. Nicola found this one in Sri Lanka



### ^ GO FOR UPCYCLED STYLE

Repurpose an old wooden drawer unit using varnish or a lick of paint, and use it to tidy away bathroom clutter

GET THE LOOK  
Turn to the  
following page

STOCKISTS  
Turn to  
page 182



## Good choice

Oka's super-soft faux mohair throw in natural taupe (W130xL170cm) is available in 16 other colourways

£44

£12

This smart chopping board is made from hardwearing acacia wood, The English Table at Creative Tops

↓ Sink into the deep seat cushions of this Bazaar sofa in fawn clever velvet by Loaf; plus there's over 90 fabric options

£1,155

## Luxury touch

↓ Getting Personal will engrave this wooden paddle chopping board with two names

SIMON & JENNY

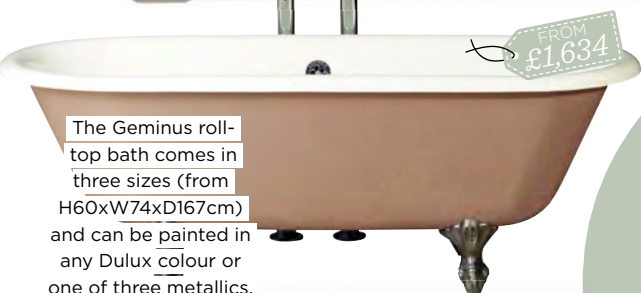
£24.99

This Cleveland throw in biscuit is made from alpaca yarn making it durable and silky, (W130xL200cm), The Fine Cotton Company

£165

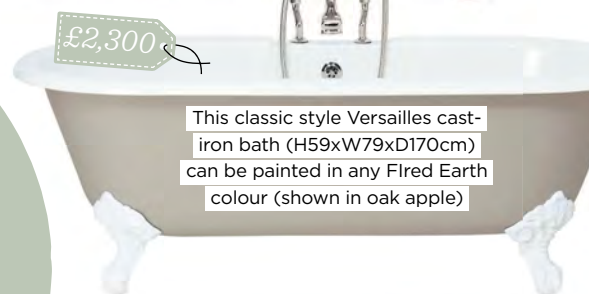
↓ For a laid-back look, choose the Lincoln sofa by Raft in elegant Modena crushed velvet fabric in Sable FR

£1,609



The Geminus roll-top bath comes in three sizes (from H60xW74xD167cm) and can be painted in any Dulux colour or one of three metallics, Albion Bath Company

FROM £1,634



£2,300

This classic style Versailles cast-iron bath (H59xW79xD170cm) can be painted in any Fired Earth colour (shown in oak apple)

## Price patrol GET NICOLA'S LOOK

Team rustic wooden furniture with traditional accessories in neutral colours to copy Nicola's elegant period look



£165

With its decorative crest and side carvings, the Mariema ornate white overmantel mirror is a good choice for a vintage-style room (H90xW120cm), Out There Interiors

→ For a smart look, choose this Chesham brown dining chair, which has an ash frame and faux leather seat pad, Next Home

£250 SET OF TWO



£239.40

↑ The Champagne glass beads and drops on this Raphael five-crystal chandelier will catch the light beautifully, Dar Lighting



£315

↑ Sweetpea & Willow's clear glass six-arm chandelier has varied length droplets and elegant crystallised chains

£319



£245

The bevelled glass of this Middelney landscape mirror is mounted within a graceful resin frame (H100xW130cm), The Chandelier & Mirror Company

→ Made from solid oak and veneers, Barker & Stonehouse's Marseille chair comes with a choice of wood, straw, fabric or faux-leather seat



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# *'I was bursting with ideas for our home'*

*Vickie Nickolls didn't let the outdated decor of her new house discourage her; she saw huge potential for a stylish and modern family abode*







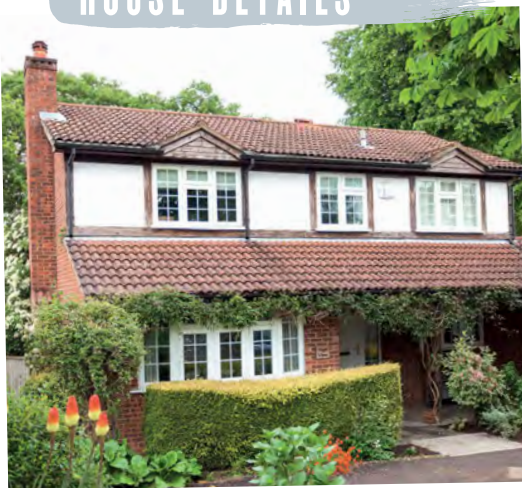
#### **CLASSIC STYLE**

The large living room has been given a formal look with smart, cream-coloured sofas and dark-wood furniture. Vickie has added a hit of colour with bright pink cushions from Heal's





## HOUSE DETAILS



### HOMEOWNERS

Vickie, an interior designer, and husband Trevor Nickolls, who is an IT sales director

### AGES

33 and 39

### FAMILY

Daughter Grace, 1

### LOCATION

Buckinghamshire

### PROPERTY

Detached 1980s rural home

### QUICK BUDGET BREAKDOWN

<b>Landscaping</b>	£14,000
<b>Internal construction</b>	£20,000
<b>Flooring</b>	£10,000
<b>Furniture</b>	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£49,000</b>

### PURCHASE PRICE

**£850,000**

### OUTLAY TO DATE

**£49,000**

### VALUED NOW AT

**£1.1M**





#### ↑ SIMPLE CHIC

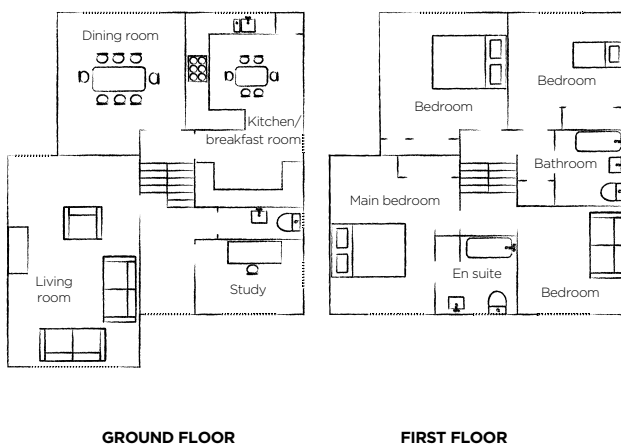
A country-style dining table and chairs from John Lewis create a relaxed breakfast area

#### ↓ TIME TO PLAY

In the playroom, Vickie chose a fun dog-print fabric from Prestigious Textiles for the blinds and white storage units from Great Little Trading Company to keep Grace's toys tidy

#### ← BOLD COLOUR

The navy-blue Roman blind adds elegance



#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

Set over two floors, this detached house has four bedrooms, one with an en suite, and a family bathroom. On the ground floor there is a large living room, separate dining area, study and a family kitchen







M

oving from her previous four-bedroom new build wasn't part of Vickie Nickolls' plan; she was expecting her first baby and was feeling quite settled and happy. Her husband, however, had other ideas and was itching for a new project. 'Trevor thought it would be great to have a bigger garden, so we went out for a drive, spotted this house for sale and viewed it that evening,' explains Vickie. Surprisingly, she fell for it straightaway. Designed over two floors, the house felt light, bright and spacious and, despite not being updated for more than 15 years, Vickie could see its wonderful potential. 'Structurally it was sound and the rooms were laid out just how we wanted them. We were also lucky in that the family bathroom and kitchen were functional and just need sprucing up with a lick of paint. The house needed a basic update in every room,' says Vickie.

Fortunately, the couple were able to stay in their previous house while the main work was done. Their team of builders replastered the walls and ceilings, rewired the whole house and fitted new lights in every room. New flooring was laid throughout: a rich dark oak in the hallways and a neutral carpet in the living room and bedrooms. Vickie had every wall painted in off-white to create a starting point for the next stage of design decisions. She project-managed everything while on maternity leave, and as soon as it was time to move in she stamped her creative mark in each room. Her aim was to give her home a sophisticated feel with lots of quirky touches. Vickie explains: 'I always start with a focal point, such as a fabric or a rug and then I build the look around this by teaming it with complementary colours, whether they are softer or bolder. I try to bring the final look together with accessories, so it harmonises.'

Having previously worked in fashion, as a trend researcher for Lacoste, Vickie has always been surrounded by colour and fabrics, and this spurred on her passion for interiors. 'I was bursting with ideas and I couldn't wait to transform the house ►

## K CLEAN LINES

To create a feature of the Eighties linear staircase, Vickie chose bold black-and-white Albany Plains & Stripes wallpaper from Wallpaper Direct





## IDEAS TO STEAL

*Use Vickie's finishing touches to give your home a quick update*



### ^ MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION

Create a bold entrance hall with a striking rug, like this black-and-white chevron design from Ikea



### ^ PICK STATEMENT STORAGE

Install fitted wardrobes – like these in dark-oak veneer – for a sleek look, while keeping the space clutter free



### ^ CREATE A MODERN FEEL

Use graphic lettering to bring your family photos up to date and display in a smart contemporary box frame



### ↑ LUXURY LOOK

Inspired by boutique hotel rooms, the couple's bedroom is a haven of sophistication and elegance. The luxurious upholstered bed is from And So To Bed, while the zingy yellow rug is from Ikea

### ← QUICK FIX

Fortunately the family bathroom was neutral and stylish, so Vickie simply brightened it up with modern accessories. For similar, try Bodie and Fou







into an inviting family home where we could entertain friends and family,' she says. During the renovations, Vickie created inspirational mood boards for each room. 'We planned to re-use furniture and curtains from our previous house, so I had to be clever with the new schemes to incorporate these items. It helped having neutral walls and flooring to work with,' she adds.

Armed with folders of paint samples, fabric swatches and wallpaper cuttings, Vickie began injecting bold colour and quirky patterns into each room, starting with daughter Grace's nursery. The beautiful image of a tree on the wall livens up the calming grey background and adds an element of fun. Another room that has been lifted with a stand-out feature is the main bedroom, where Vickie has introduced a bright yellow rug and bold mustard cushions to the sultry grey scheme. 'We love boutique hotels and this room has been influenced by the Malmaison interiors, which are classic yet contemporary,' says Vickie. 'The room has the perfect balance of feminine and masculine touches, which suits us both, and we often watch TV here in the evening instead of sitting downstairs.' Vickie has transformed a snug into a playroom for Grace, with a mixture of cheerful prints and bright colours. 'I absolutely love the dog-print fabric,' she says. 'It creates a fun and welcoming space, but it still feels smart and grown up. I can see us playing in here for many years to come.'

Just a few months after moving in, every room is nearly finished, minus the odd picture on the walls and an office space in one of the spare rooms. Vickie and Trevor are now turning their attention to the large garden, where they would like to create a play area for Grace. They are thrilled with the welcoming and friendly home they have achieved in a relatively short space of time, although Vickie admits she may have been too hasty with some of her decision making. 'Some colours and ideas didn't work as I'd envisioned them, in fact some rooms have been painted more than once. But you just have to be brave and experiment until you get things right.'

#### ↑ DECORATIVE TOUCHES

For a quirky, individual look, Vickie pinned colourful 3D fabric letters from Mamas and Papas on to the wall sticker with loops of white ribbon

#### → CALMING COLOURS

Gentle shades of lavender create a welcoming and relaxing guest room. The Polka Square wallpaper is from Farrow & Ball







**GET THE LOOK**  
Turn to the  
following page

## IDEAS TO STEAL

*Be inspired by Vickie's  
well-thought-out decorating style*



### ^ LAYER COLOUR AND PATTERN

Add interest to a guest bedroom  
by mixing and matching prints and  
textures in similar shades



### ^ ADD PERSONAL DETAILS

Choose accessories to give your  
child's room a special feel, such as this  
star-shaped decorative lavender bag



### ^ GO FOR A SHARP CONTRAST

Give neutral chairs a pop of colour  
with bright cushions – you can easily  
change the covers for a different look



## Good choice

→ The textured silver base of this Gustav lamp comes with an elegant silk-effect shade, Dar Lighting

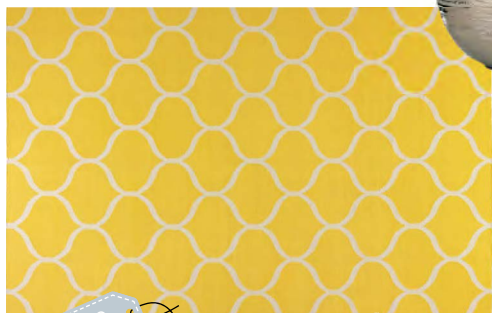
→ These colourful Andros mosaic tiles add interest and would work well in a kitchen or bathroom scheme, Original Style

£69.95  
PER SQ M



£76.20

← Brighten a dark space with this stunning Ikea Stockholm zingy, yellow rug (H170xW240cm)



£160



£80

↑ Niki Jones's beautifully embroidered Uzbek cushion (H30xW60cm) has been inspired by traditional textiles from northern Afghanistan, Amara

→ The Garrat nine-drawer coffee table (H41xW90xD60cm) is crafted from solid birch and is an ideal storage solution for a small living room, Laura Ashley



£350

Grey steel 2 from Dulux's paint mixing matt collection is the perfect choice to add a warm feel to any room

£24.49  
PER 25 LTR



£34.95  
PER 10M ROLL

Add geometric style with this BW28717 wallpaper design from the black and white collection at Galerie Home

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## Luxury touch

← Inject a touch of glamour with House of Fraser's Casa Couture Lara table lamp in shiny silver

£226.26  
PER SQ M

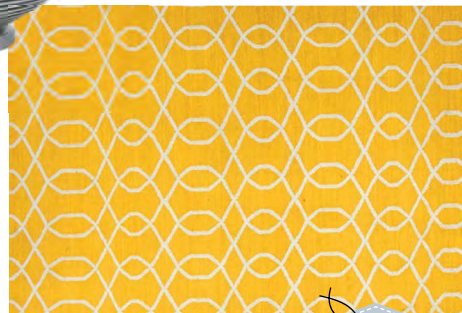


← These Accord Ice Cube glass mosaic tiles are a subtle mixture of blue, grey and white tones for a softer look, Topps Tiles



£150

→ Overstock's handmade yellow wool rug comes in a variety of sizes (shown in H243xW304cm)



£400.30



£120

↑ In this season's on-trend colour, the handmade 'O What Sweet Delights' cushion features a digitally printed design on silk habotai fabric, In-Spaces



£824

← Raft's Lifestyle 12-drawer coffee table (H70xW110x D50cm) is made from reclaimed teak and comes in a natural or dark finish (as shown)

£79  
PER 10M ROLL

GP & J Baker's Hicksonian geometric paper features a modern design in grey and charcoal for a contemporary home, Fabrics & Papers



This ultra-matt chalky claypaint softens and enhances the light in a room, Nellie at Earthborn

£32.70  
PER 25 LTR





# Baby, it's cool inside



Love those great retro refrigerator lines, but stuck for kitchen space? The Husky Retro has all the style points you want, yet will slip under any standard worktop height.

You'll adore those clean, curved lines of the reversible door with its generous storage space. Inside you'll find tempered adjustable glass shelves with shimmering silver trim, salad drawer and chromed wine rack, all this plus an A+ energy rating.

**To view the full Husky range visit [husky-retail.com](http://husky-retail.com)**



Also available in Radiant Red and Vintage Ivory.  
Size (HxWxD): 840x550x550mm.



[husky-retail.com](http://husky-retail.com)

Also available in Piano Black in selected John Lewis stores and online.

**John Lewis**  
[johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)







#### MAKE A STATEMENT

Clive Sefton provides  
unique, handcrafted  
prints in a range of  
sizes, from £65

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*Enter for the chance to win a personalised word-search print,  
worth £400 or win one of 10 vouchers worth £100 each*

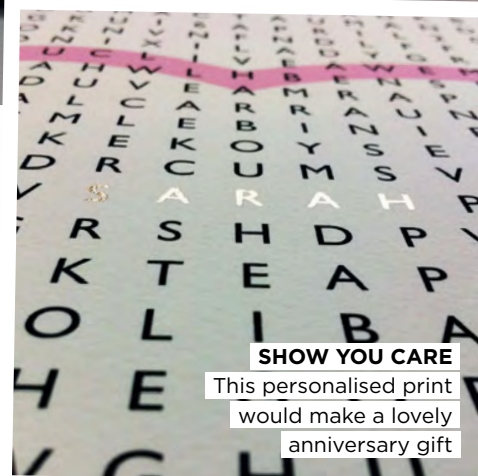
If you're looking for a unique piece of artwork for your home or a special gift for a friend or loved one, look no further. Clive Sefton is able to create a one-off piece of high-quality, personal artwork, hand-finished in silver or 24ct gold leaf.

Simply provide Clive with up to 100 words and short phrases that have personal meaning to you or the person you are buying the artwork for and he will create a stylish word search picture that would look great hanging on the wall or displayed on a shelf or mantelpiece. You can even circle

the words on the glass. The words or phrases could be a wedding date, a holiday location, a favourite restaurant or simply someone's name – words can evoke so many feelings.

Over the years, Clive has created many original word searches, including ones for multi-national companies, professional sportspeople and celebrities. His personalised word-search prints are high-quality pieces of art that make an unusual gift, especially for a significant event, such as a birthday or anniversary.

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would make a lovely  
anniversary gift

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☆ More ☆  
decorating

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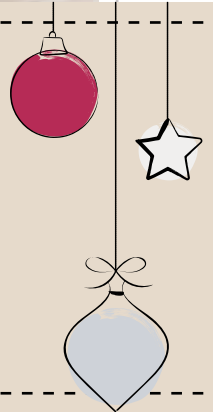


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# Styling your rooms FOR THE NEW YEAR

*Discover this season's latest trends, easy  
craft makes and gorgeous colour schemes*



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Shop the look

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# Modern LUXE

Perfect for a New Year celebration, this glamorous living room mixes wintry whites with a palette of cool greys and just the right amount of elegant festive sparkle

## GOOD IDEA

*Update your sofa for the start of 2015 with glittery silver-sequinned cushions. If your room is decorated in warmer, neutral tones, choose gold ones instead*



## STYLING TIP

*Choose fairy lights with an almost-invisible wire so there's more sparkle and less cable – drape over a mirror, mantelpiece or garland for a streamlined look*

## Love this room

- ★ Introduce a pattern by papering the alcoves either side of a fireplace.
- ★ Choose geometric wallpaper and curtain fabric in subtle shades for a softer look.
- ★ Mix textures in a neutral scheme to add interest – for example, contrast a chunky wool rug and knitted throws with glass details and shiny, metallic furniture.
- ★ Decorate both above and below the mantelpiece with mirrored ornaments and hanging accessories for a focal point.
- ★ Fresh silvery green foliage adds a natural feel to the contemporary details.



# Add the FINISHING TOUCHES

Make your room look extra special with flickering candles, glitter encrusted decorations and luxurious textured cushions and throws



## ← MIX AND MATCH

Add a modern edge by using larger decorations in just a few co-ordinating styles; mix pearly silver baubles with grey paper designs, and swap the tinsel for crepe ribbon

## STYLING TIP

*Contrast natural elements and textures, such as bark, wool and woven willow, with modern furniture and decorations to soften the contemporary look*



## WARM GLOW

Group embossed glass lanterns and votives together to create a focal point on your coffee or console table



## FEEL GOOD

Bring warmth and festive glamour to a plain room with cosy knitted throws, textured wool and sparkly cushions

## THREE OF THE BEST decorative fabrics

### 1 FLORAL PRINT

Ideal for curtains or Roman blinds. Tokat, £35 per m, John Lewis

### 2 DIAMOND DESIGN

A great-value classic embroidered linen. Marton, £21.99 per m, Dunelm

### 3 METALLIC FINISH

This raised-weave scroll pattern has a subtle shiny finish. Nimbus in mink, £79 per m, Jane Churchill





## GET THIS LOOK

*For a truly magical feel, use plenty of sparkle for a sophisticated edge*

### VINTAGE LOOK

Rosie glass table lamp, £65, House of Fraser

### DISCO STYLE

Mirrored silver sparkle bauble, £4.75, Debenhams

### LUXURY TOUCH

Large sequin cushion, £20, Bhs

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## WHERE TO BUY

**Walls** painted in portland stone absolute matt emulsion, £35 per 2.5ltr; **wallpaper** cones lint, £44.50 per 10m roll; both Little Greene. **Carpet** in sisal bubble weave in pewter 2554, £50.45 per sq m, Alternative Flooring. **Rug** in loop weave, £349; **luxury 6ft Christmas tree**, £150; **Beckworth display unit**, £499; all Marks & Spencer. **Curtains** in macrame 131410, £69 per m, Harlequin. **Emmen three-seater** in dark grey, £799 each, Dwell. **Kendal coffee table**, £495; **Kendal side tables**, £295 for a set of two; **Kendal mirror**, from £295; all Lombok. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Birch hearts, £4.99 for a pack of 20, Panduro Hobby. **Casa Couture globe vase**, £40; **pinecones**, £25 each, House of Fraser. **Powder stone trays**, £22 each; **votives**, £12 each; all Lombok. **Bird tealight holders**, £2.95 each; **tree decorations**, £6.50 each; all Parlane International. **Letter ornament**, £6; **polar bear ornament**, £14; both Anthropologie. **Vases**, £20 for a set of two, The White Company. **Bauble** in glass, £4, John Lewis. **ON MANTELPIECE** Garland in frosted pinecone and fir, £70; **silver beaded heart**, £15; both The White Company. **Tealight holders**, £2.95 each, Parlane International. **Square votives**, £100 as part of a set; **silver vases**, £25 each; all House of Fraser. **Mirrored snowflake decorations**, £11.95 for a set of four, Pipii. **Glitter silver ribbon**, £3 per 3m, Jane Means. **ON TREE** Naked wire fairy lights (as before), £15.50, Cox and Cox. **Glitter 'onion' baubles**, £5 each, The White Company. **Glass frosted and silver baubles**, £7.50 each; **wooden decorations** in recycled

paper and cinnamon, £6.50 each; all Parlane International. **Silver-fringed streamers**, £8 for a pack of three, Pipii. **Rattan log basket** (next to fire), £70, Garden Trading.

**ON LEFT SOFA** Pom pom throw in grey, £69, Lux Grey criss-cross cushion, £20, Ethereal silver cushion, £35; all House of Fraser. **Beaded diamond cushion**, £45, Marks & Spencer. **Weave cushion**, £16, Bhs.

**ON RIGHT SOFA** Crochet throw, £69; beaded diamond cushion, £45; moss knit throw, £69; all Marks & Spencer. **Folk cushion**, £30, House of Fraser.

**ON LEFT SIDE TABLE** Lamp in silver antique cut glass, £85, The White Company. **Robin mug**, £6.50, House of Fraser. **Candles** in glasses, £2.50 each, Ikea.

**ON RIGHT SIDE TABLE** Large glass bowl, £225, The White Company. **Pinecones** in bowl, £2.95 for a box of 15, Pipii. **Snow in bowl**, from £7.99 for a bag, Snow Business.

**Mini frosted pine trees**, £4.95 each; **tealight holders**, £2.95 each; all Parlane International. **Candles**, £2.50 each, Ikea.

### ON TOP OF CABINET

**Bao windlights**, £40 each, Lombok.

**IN CUPBOARD** (from top) **Wreaths** in pre-lit Christmas green foliage, £39 each, Marks & Spencer. **Vases**, for similar, try silver Casa Couture, from £60 each, House Of Fraser. **Hammered bowl** in metal, £50;

**small glass frosted baubles**, £7.50 each, Parlane International. **Wreath** (as before), £39, Marks & Spencer. **Group of tree trunks** from Forgotten Forest collection, from £5.37 each; **wooden votive** candleholders, £35 each; all House of Fraser.

## Five of the best WALLPAPERS

*Use pattern as a feature wall or be bold and decorate a whole room*



### ↑ PAINTERLY EFFECT

Soft colours and pretty patterns create a calm feel. Aranami BP 4601, £90 per 10m roll (W53cm), Farrow & Ball



### ↑ IN BLOOM

This retro print was inspired by a Fifties Scandi block print. Suvi in nickel, £50 per roll (W52cm), Romo



### ↑ ABSTRACT PRINT

Would look great with modern mid-century furniture. Calia in luxe, £50 per 10m roll, Prestigious Textiles



### ↑ SMALL SCALE

A hand-blocked-style paper with a chalky matt finish. Florrie in pebble, £52 per 10m roll (W52cm), Sanderson



### ↑ FIFTIES FLAIR

This design is subtle enough to use on all four walls. Solitaire in putty, £41 per 10m roll (W52cm), Villa Nova





# *Dress up your* **DINING ROOM**

Combine glass and paper decorations with dainty fairy lights and stylish silver and white accessories for a scheme that's full of grown-up glamour

## **GOOD IDEA**

*Use glass placemats and coasters for a sophisticated setting, intersperse with white fairy lights and large grey paper baubles*



## STYLING TIP

*Use the space above and below a mantel to hang fairy lights or decorations, this helps to balance the taller items on top*

## Love this room

- ★ Paint the walls in a pale grey and match with a neutral textured carpet for a versatile backdrop. You can then add as much colour or festive sparkle as you like.
- ★ Place white and grey paper balls and decorations along the centre of the table for a quick and easy centrepiece. Decorate with tiny fairy lights and glittery stars.
- ★ Team curvy modern white chairs with a pale wooden table to create an elegant Nordic-inspired dining space.
- ★ Avoid the over co-ordinated look and mix and match your china, layering floral patterns with fun woodland designs.



# All in the DETAILS

Choose glimmering glass tableware, silver accessories and printed crockery inspired by snowflakes and woodland creatures



## ← WINTER WHITE

Raid your local haberdashery store or John Lewis for pretty trimmings, such as this bobble braid to use as an alternative to tinsel

## STYLING TIP

*When buying a fake tree, go for one with frosted tips, as it will look much more luxurious when the lights are on*



## LIGHT SHOW

You can never have too many lanterns and candles at this time of year, arrange in a row with sparkly garlands and tealights



## NATURE'S TOUCH

Contrast a wooden table with glass details, linen napkins and animal-inspired china for an updated natural look

## THREE OF THE BEST grey paints

### 1 MUTED FINISH

Combine with a darker grey for an elegant look. Arctic grey one-coat gloss, £17.99 per 750ml, Crown Paints

### 2 FEATURE WALL

Use on one wall or under a dado rail. Bowler hat matt, £24.49 per 2.5ltr, Dulux

### 3 ON-TREND COLOUR

Use to refresh an entire room. Plumbago elements, £50 per 2.5ltr, Fired Earth

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## GET THIS LOOK

Add these to your scheme  
for a quick update



**SIMPLE LINES**  
Chrome lantern, £5, George Home

### STACKABLE DESIGN

Jasper dining chair, £39, House by John Lewis



### CLASSIC SHAPE

Black flutes by Betty Johnson, £11 each, Debenhams

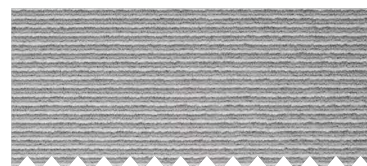


### PRETTY PATTERN

Etched peony plate, £5, Marks & Spencer

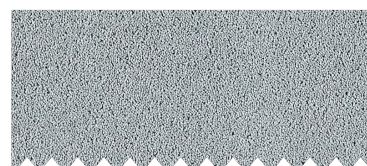
## Five of the best CARPETS

Warm-up your home this winter with a natural weave



### ↑ TACTILE TEXTURE

This hardwearing choice is good for high-traffic areas. Wool pinstripe, £51 per sq m, Alternative Flooring



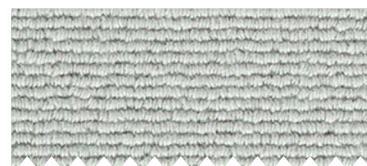
### ↑ WOVEN MIX

This carpet works well with underfloor heating. Mineral 71482, £40 per sq m, Brintons



### ↑ DRAMATIC LOOK

Use in a hallway or on the stairs as a runner. WN227 wool in country in ebony, £45 per sq m, Crucial Trading



### ↑ GREY SCALE

Complements a neutral scheme. Beach waves loop carpet in stone grey, £39 per sq m, John Lewis



### ↑ DURABLE DESIGN

This large-weave carpet is a great modern buy. Pampas London Holborn, £40.99 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb

## WHERE TO BUY

**Walls** painted in French grey 161 matt emulsion, £35 per 2.5ltr, Little Greene. **Carpet** in sisal bubble weave in pewter 2554, £50.45 per sq m, Alternative Flooring. **Lumen ash extending dining table**, £995, Habitat. **White dining chairs**, £70 for a set of two, Next. **Portsmouth bookcase**, £370, Laura Ashley. **Luxury 6ft Christmas tree**, £150, Marks & Spencer. **ON TABLE Art Deco-style placemats**, £35 for a set of two; **Art Deco-style coasters**, £25 for a set of four; **slate placemats** in centre, £35 for a set of two; **grey concertina balls**, £15 for a set of three; **scatter stars**, £10 a pack; all The White Company. **Table runner**, £25; **napkins**, £20 for a set of four; all John Lewis. **Silver owl napkin rings**, £20 for four, House Of Fraser. **Silver lustre Champagne flutes**, £7 for two; **lace design paper plates**, £40 for a 12-piece set; all Tesco. **Snowflake plates**, £6 each, Marks & Spencer. **Wildlife tealight holders**, £2.99 each, Tesco. **Wire lights**, £15, Cox and Cox. **ON AND ABOVE MANTELPIECE Large silver pillar candleholders**, £45 each;

**silver vase**, £35; **lantern**, £40; **paper glitter houses**, £15 for a set of three; all The White Company. **Hanging light garland** in button and bead, £29.95, Parlane International. **Hanging garland** above fireplace made from a silver bell and bead garland, £7.25; **honeycomb paper snowflakes**, £2.90 each; **honeycomb long paper baubles**, £6.49 for a set of six; **honeycomb small tissue baubles**, £4.95 for a set of three; all Pipii. **ON TREE Tree skirt** in willow, £30, John Lewis. **Lights** (as before), £15, Cox and Cox. **Pom pom garlands**, £8.95 for a set of two, Pipii. **White bobble ribbon**, from £2.50 per m, Jane Means. **Bird decorations** in porcelain, £6 each, The White Company. **ABOVE AND ON BOOKCASE Ribba picture frames on wall** in aluminium, £6 each, Ikea. **Lantern**, £30; **concertina ball**, £15 for a set of three; all The White Company. **Faux trees**, from £7.99 each, Dobbies. **White lanterns**, £5 each, Ikea. **Honeycomb tissue paper baubles** (as before), prices from a selection, Pipii. **Silver tree glass decoration**, £15, Marks & Spencer.

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# Indulge in a LUXURY BEDROOM

Bring a relaxed and opulent feel by layering your bed with cool silk and satin fabrics in muted colours, top with a faux-fur throw and chic cushions

## STYLING TIP

*On each bedside table, group together a collection of varying sized lanterns, tealights and votives as a cosy, winter alternative to a table lamp*





### GOOD IDEA

*Inject a little festive flair to your bedroom by hanging a couple of oversized paper stars above your bed*

### Love this room

- ★ Change your bedding with the seasons; layer with beautifully tactile linen, mixing faux fur with pleated satin and a soft, quilted throw for warmth and comfort.
- ★ Mix fluffy and tactile cushions with those printed with frosty winter scenes.
- ★ Choose a classic Nordic-style bedstead that exudes timeless elegance – it won't date and you will love it for years.
- ★ Treat yourself to a really indulgent carpet in the bedroom; go for a warm sable tone with a deep pile and a cosy texture that feels wonderful underfoot.



# Make it MAGICAL

Add sumptuous textures, shiny surfaces and soft linen for a decadent bedroom scheme



## ← DRESSING UP

Use pop-up craft boxes for small gifts. Wrap with clear, spotty cellophane, brown or silver paper and finish with velvet or glitter ribbon. Tie on a large silver bauble to complete the look

## STYLING TIP

*Soft pink works beautifully in a pale grey and white scheme, evoking a calm and tranquil atmosphere. Use on cushions and throws or as a deep-pile rug*



## STRIKING DISPLAY

Place a hurricane lamp, tealights and embossed silver details on an Art Deco-style tray for a beautiful focal point



## WINTER STYLE

Cushions are an easy way to update the look of your bed. Winter snow scenes hint that Christmas is here

## THREE OF THE BEST *muted paints*

### 1 HOTEL STYLE

Dove grey matt emulsion leaves a soft sheen, £29.99 per 2.5ltr, Laura Ashley

### 2 ROMANTIC SHADE

Gentle matt emulsion is 99% solvent and odour free, £23.99 per 2.5ltr, Crown Paints

### 2 BARELY THERE

Horizon grey No.55, £38 per 2.5ltr, Sanderson

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## GET THIS LOOK

*Glamourise your bedroom with a few must-have accessories*



**PICTURE PERFECT**  
Winter scene cushion, £12, Sainsbury's



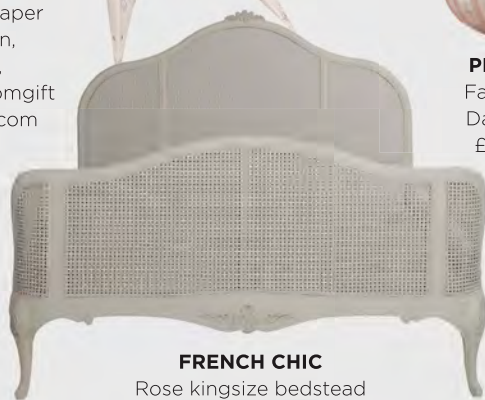
**STAR BUY**  
Nine-point star paper lantern, £8.95, Dotcomgiftshop.com



**SOFT TOUCH**  
Faux fur throw, £60, Bhs



**PINK SHEEN**  
FaLene Bjerre Dante candle, £5.50, Occa Home



**FRENCH CHIC**  
Rose kingsize bedstead in ivory, £1,150, John Lewis

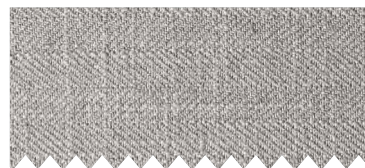
## Five of the best FABRICS

*Match your room with one of these delicate designs*



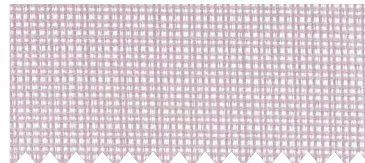
### ↑ SUBTLE LOOK

Go for understated style with this lightly patterned grey print. Silice petra, £52.80 per m, Casamance



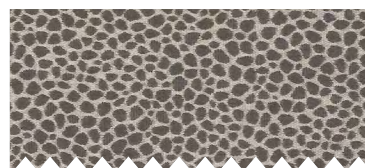
### ↑ NATURAL MATERIAL

This herringbone linen weave is great for curtains and upholstery. Henley F0648, £25 per m, Clarke & Clarke



### ↑ MODERN CLASSIC

Use this soft-satin weave for cushions and curtains. Momentum accents 131337, £45 per m, Harlequin



### ↑ METALLIC TONES

Create a striking look with this pebble-spots design. Mineral in mocha, £31 per m, Prestigious Textiles



### ↑ GEOMETRIC PATTERN

Drape this semi-translucent fabric at a large window for a stylish effect. Timon nougat 7708/01, £75 per m, Romo

## WHERE TO BUY

**Walls** painted in welcome 109 absolute matt emulsion, £35 per 2.5ltr, Little Greene.

**Carpet** in sisal bubble weave in pewter 2554, £50.45 per sq m, Alternative Flooring.

**Freya kingsize bed**, £795, Marks & Spencer.

**ON LEFT TABLE** Chalky bedside tables,

£165 each, Loaf. **Beaten silver platter**,

from £30; **bowl** on bottom shelf, £50; both

House of Fraser. **Mini silver frame**, £20,

The White Company. **Candles** in

frankincense and myrrh, £9.50 for a pair,

Marks & Spencer. **Jana wind light**, £60,

Lombok. **Heart decoration**, £2.99, Dobbies.

**ON RIGHT TABLE** Silver boxes on bottom

shelf, £35 each, The White Company. All

other accessories are the same as left table.

**ON BED** King-size duvet set in pure cotton

digital snow forest, £69; **white knit cushion**,

£25; both Marks & Spencer. **Foil cushions** in

heather and grey, £16 each, Bhs.

**Tree cushion**, £8, Tesco. **Faux fur throw** in

silver, £70; **quilted throw** in mauve, £50;

**pleated throw** in mink, £45, Next Home.

**ON WALL Frames**: mother of pearl in white,

£70; medium mother of pearl in charcoal,

£50; small mother of pearl in charcoal,

£30; all The White Company. **Fairy lights**,

£15.50, Cox and Cox. **Hanging large paper**

**stars**, £10 each, Ikea.

**END OF BED** Sheepskin throw with

presents on, £25, Ikea. **Kraft boxes**, £2.95

for five; **white boxes**, £3.50 for a set of

three; **streamers** in silver fringed metallic

on white boxes, £8 for a pack of three; all

Pipii. **Cellophane** with spots, £12.99 per roll;

**glitter ribbon**, £3 per 3m; **Grey ribbon**,

£2.70 per 3m; both Jane Means. **Baubles**,

from £2.99 each, Dobbies. **Gainsborough**

**stool**, £149, Marks & Spencer. **Silver glass**

**bottle**, £180, The White Company.

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Exclusive offer

# SAVE £5 ON CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Make the season extra special  
with this exclusive offer from Ikea

**H**oliday traditions are different around the world, but the joy of creating a warm and inviting home is something we can all share. With two collections of festive decorations and gift wrap, Ikea has everything you need to get into the holiday spirit. So whether you'd like a Scandi twist or modern accessories, you'll receive £5 off decorations when you spend £10 or more on Christmas decorations. For more information call 0203 645 0000 or visit [ikea.co.uk](http://ikea.co.uk).



**ROUND ROBIN**  
Vintermys hanging  
decorations, £4 for  
a set of four

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an Ikea real Christmas tree for £25\*

If you buy a real Christmas tree at Ikea  
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\*While stocks last. This offer excludes  
Ikea Cardiff and Ikea Croydon.

## HANG IT UP

Strala LED window  
decoration, £10

## SOFT GLOW

Strala LED  
decoration  
18-ball light  
chain, £20



## DECK THE HALLS

Vinter 2014 fabric  
(W150cm), £5 per m;  
decorations, from £3.50

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from Ikea for £10 or more. This coupon can be  
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# Decorating NEWS

Stay ahead with new products, ideas and trends to update your interior spaces



## *Fine art for your walls*

Adding to its already hugely popular Hinterland wallpaper collection, which takes its inspiration from the nature reserve at Dungeness on the Kent coast, Mini Moderns has collaborated with artist Matt Sewell to create this new design, Feathers. Inspired by Matt's book *Our Songbirds*, each feather relates to the birds featured in his book. £55 per 10m roll (W52cm), available in five colourways with two matching lampshades.

## EXPERIMENTING WITH COLOUR

Renowned for her love of neutrals, Kelly Hoppen's new orange bubble vase is a departure from her usual colour palette. Inspired by fabric textures, the vibrant vase has an embossed design and funnel neck, reminiscent of the Art Deco period. Small bubble vase (H22.5xW18xD18cm), £50, available in a larger size.



## GREAT-VALUE TREND

*Bold patterned floors are big news in interiors this season and are a great way to create impact in a dining area, kitchen, bathroom or hallway. The new range from Carpetright includes these dramatic monochrome vinyl floor tiles. Make them work in your home by keeping the rest of the scheme and furniture simple, and adding pops of colourful accessories to complete the look. Mardi Gras 599 vinyl flooring in Sagres, £13.99 per sq m.*





## HOT FOR 2015

This beautifully warm shade of copper is what Dulux says you should be decorating your home in this year. A new take on the old terracotta tones that were so popular in the Nineties, copper blush matt emulsion would look great in a living room teamed with an off-white linen-covered sofa and pale ash furniture. £24.29 per 2.5ltr.



## Create your perfect sofa

Sofas by You is the latest idea from furniture store Harvey's, which allows you to design the size, colour and look of your own sofa. Choose from 13 styles, six sizes and 100 modern and classic fabrics to create a bespoke model that perfectly fits you, your home and lifestyle. Ripley three-seater sofa in Jennifer mink (H91xW212xD96cm), £624.



## Designer collaboration

Sofa.com has teamed up with style guru Abigail Ahern to create its first-ever designer collection. The range features four living-room staples, all in her luxurious signature style: the curvaceous Stanley chair – shown in velvet in turquoise (H63xW83xD85cm), £660 – the Abigail sofa, and the Maud and Celeste footstools.



## Decorating Latest looks



## Online relaunch

If you're a fan of Donna Wilson and her quirky knitted animals, you'll love her new-look homewares website. Featuring simpler navigation and bigger, brighter pictures, the new site, donnawilson.com, also includes a handy you-might-like feature, making it a real pleasure to shop.

## FABRIC family choice

Fabric and wallpaper designer Vanessa Arbuthnott has launched two new oil cloths. These pretty and practical fabric designs are perfect for covering the table in a busy family kitchen, as well as adding a subtle injection of colour for the new season. Pretty Maids fabric in limestone smoke winter (shown) and saffron winter, £42 per m (W135cm).



## Floor show

Mylands has launched a new paint range specifically for wooden floors. Available in all 120 of its Colours of London palette, the collection includes versatile whites, subtle cool greys, deep blues and some brilliant punchy brights, like this vibrant orange Lolly Pop 275 (£56.50 per 2.5ltr), which would look great in a child's room. They are a quick and inexpensive way to update any room.

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### STYLISH SHADE

Sloane square 92  
decorative floor paint,  
£56.50 per 2.5ltr,  
Mylands

### RICH TONES

Eaton Square 232  
decorative floor paint,  
£56.50 per 2.5ltr,  
Mylands

FEATURE CHARLOTTE BLAKE & CHARLOTTE BOYD





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GOOD HOMES

# Interior DESIGN COURSE

*Planning a project, but not sure where to start? Ever dreamed of studying interior design? Well look no further... This month, we're launching the new Good Homes Interior Design Course, which means you can learn the basics in your own time – even if you're a beginner*

**E**very issue, we'll publish another cut-out-and-keep design course, so it couldn't be easier to boost your decorating confidence in the comfort of your own home and at your own pace. From planning the perfect colour scheme to choosing the right fabrics, wallpapers and flooring – we'll cover all the key skills you need to make your home beautiful. So forget about hiring a professional or spending out on a course – you'll be designing your own home in no time.

## FABRIC SWATCHES

From top:  
Muxton in sulphur  
yellow, grey, black  
and putty, all £25  
per m; Retreat  
(trees) £18 per m;  
Haven (flowers),  
£18 per m; all  
John Lewis

## PART ONE

### Understanding how to use colour

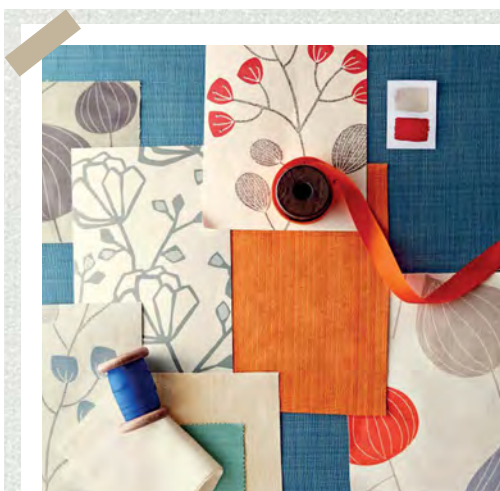
- + Learn colour-wheel techniques
- + Find decorating inspiration
- + Use paint swatches like an expert
- + Make a mood board
- + Master tonal, harmonious and contrasting schemes
- + Study tints, hues and shades
- + Make monochrome work
- + Become an expert on saturation
- + Download the latest colour apps
- + Blend warm and cool neutrals





# HOW TO USE THE colour wheel

*Interior designers often arrange colours on an abstract circular colour wheel that shows primary (red, blue, yellow), secondary (purple, green, orange) and tertiary (red-purple, yellow-orange, yellow-green, blue-green and blue-purple) colours in order, according to their wavelengths. We've created this simple colour wheel for you to use; once you've got the knack of using it, putting together decorating schemes that work every time is a cinch. There are three main types of colour schemes that you can easily put together using a colour wheel: contrasting, harmonious and tonal. Use these formulas to create a cohesive scheme.*

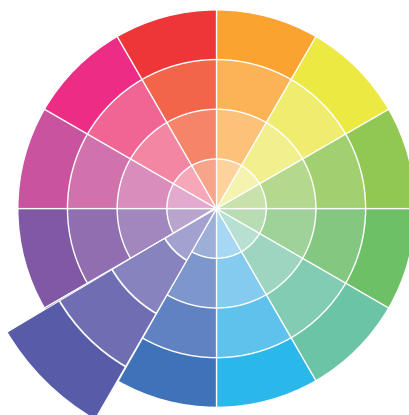


## Make a mood board

Once you've chosen paint colours for your room, it's important to put together a mood board to envisage the look before you start.

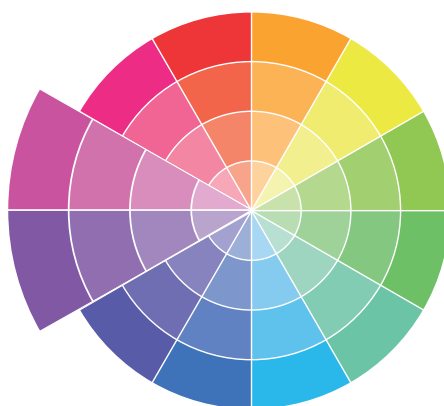
Use your swatches to set a mood and take them with you when shopping for fabric, wallpaper, upholstery and accessories.

Gather together all your samples, swatches and any inspirational images; glue them together on a piece of cardboard or simply spread them out on a surface and take a photo of them. Having a mood board to hand throughout your project will give you a strong theme to follow and keep you on track.



### ↑ TONAL SCHEMES

Colours that use different tones of the same colour from the same slice. For example, purple works beautifully with lilac.



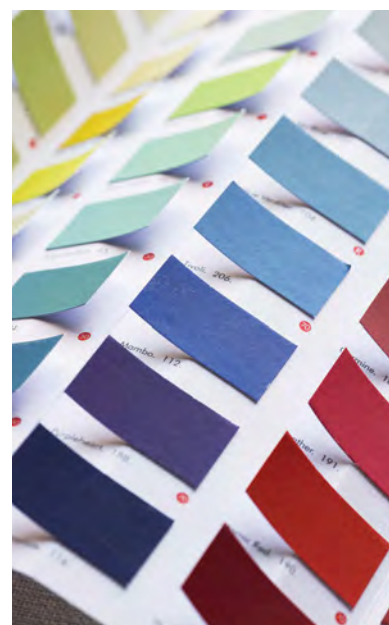
### ↑ HARMONIOUS SCHEMES

These work with colours that sit immediately next to one another. For example, purple and pink create a feminine, soft look.



### ↑ CONTRASTING SCHEMES

These use colours that are directly opposite from one another on the wheel. For example, purple looks striking matched with yellow.







#### SEA-GREEN PAINT & GOLD DETAILS

This stunning living room by West Elm has rich blue-green walls and metallic gold accessories, inspired by the seascape painting on the wall, creating a dramatic scheme

### THREE OF THE BEST *inspiring themes*



#### ↑ NATURE'S TOUCH

When it comes to colour combinations, they say nature is the best designer. From the richness of a sunset to the vibrant greens in your garden – there are perfect schemes everywhere. All products from Marks & Spencer.



#### ↑ ART WORLD

Turn to the experts for a little creative help – artists have a knack of choosing colours that just work. Your favourite painting is a good starting point – focus on one or two of the key colours. All accessories from John Lewis.



#### ↑ TRAVEL, FASHION & FOOD

From the bold colours in an exotic textiles market to the subtle hues in ancient floor tiles, keep your eyes peeled for inspiration on holiday, in clothes shops and even supermarkets. White lead matt paint, £38 per 2.5ltr, Edward Bulmer.

## USE COLOUR CARDS & TESTER POTS

Once you've chosen your colours, it's crucial to try them out before committing. Tester or sample pots are always worth buying – they cost a few pounds and let you see what a colour will actually look like in a room.

**STEP 1** Use a colour card, like this swatch card from Little Greene (left), to pick your favourite shades and make a shortlist. Don't be afraid to cut up the card so you can see how different colours work alongside one another – place the swatches side by side on a piece of white paper and view them in natural daylight beside a window.

**STEP 2** Order tester pots of your shortlisted favourites and paint some large white A5-size pieces of paper to create

your own swatches. Remember to label the reverse of these first so you don't muddle up the front and back. Give each swatch two coats if necessary to achieve a realistic depth of colour that you'll get on the wall.

**STEP 3** Once they're completely dry, use masking tape to fix the large swatches to the walls or woodwork in your room. Leave them up for a couple of days, moving them around so you can see how they look next to a window, in a shadowy alcove, in the morning, afternoon and evening light. Study them carefully and compare them, making notes about what you do and don't like about the varying colours throughout the day. This will help you make the right decision for your decorating scheme.





# MASTER tonal schemes

*These use dark shades and light tints of a single chosen colour. Some paint companies, such as Dulux, produce paints in numbered shades and tints (see box below), so it's easy to select two or three versions of the same colour. Schemes that stick to one colour group, such as greens, are also tonal, even if they are slightly different shades. Choose colours of varying depths for a dramatic look – if they are too similar to one another depth-wise, the end result won't be as strong.*

## EXPERT TIP

'It's very important to look at paint swatches at night. We often underestimate how often we're in our homes in the evenings with the lights on and how different colours can look under artificial lights'

Judy Smith,  
colour consultant,  
Crown Paints

## EMERALD GREEN & SUBTLE MINT

Walls in bowling green matt emulsion (left) and flagon matt emulsion (right); tables painted in Scottish pine; all £24.99 per 2.5ltr, Crown Paints

## TONAL IDEAS



Snowfall, city break, night fever



Laguna bay, lupin, powder blue



Honey fever, hot toddy, NYC,  
all Crown Paints





## HARMONIOUS IDEAS



Empire gold, lime cloud, canopy green



Meadow violet, wild plum, lady lilac It



Boy blue, Caribbean blue, blue moon, all Sanderson

### PEACEFUL BLUE & LIGHT GREEN

Paint the wall between shelves a different colour for impact, like this scheme by Sanderson. This look creates a serene atmosphere

## LEARN

# harmonious schemes

*Colours that sit side-by-side on the colour wheel always work well together. For example, green and blue, orange and yellow or pink and purple. These schemes are always soothing and well-balanced, without the drama of contrasting, but with more interest than tonal schemes. Harmonious looks work best if you stick to a similar depth of colours throughout, so a pale mint green looks lovely with a pale blue tint, and a deep indigo blue looks striking with a rich, emerald green.*

### Tones, hues and shades

On the wheel, a pure intense colour is referred to as a hue. If you add white to a hue, you get a lighter tint. If you add black to a hue, you get a darker shade. In a tonal scheme, tints, hues and shades of the same colour are often used side by side.

*Decorating Easy-to-follow advice*

### CHIC PURPLE & ROSE PINK

This smart look from Valspar uses harmonious colours to highlight architectural features. The feminine tones soften a very sharp space



## THREE OF THE BEST colour apps



### ← DULUX VISUALIZER

This app allows you to scan an item you love the colour of and shop for paint in that shade. It also lets you take a photo of the room and see what it looks like when painted. Free on iTunes and compatible with iPad/iPhone; free on Google Play and works with android devices.



### ← MY ROOM PAINTER BY CROWN PAINTS

Allows you to match and apply colours to photography or load and paint your own images; it also includes decorating how-to videos. Free on iTunes and compatible with iPad/iPhone; free on Google Play and works with android devices.



### ← JOHNSTONE'S COLOURMATE

Use to photograph any object and find the closest match from Johnstone's 1,600 paint colours. You can view full-screen colour swatches, create your own custom palettes and fine-tune your colour selection. Free on iTunes and compatible with iPad/iPhone.



# DISCOVER contrasting schemes

*Choose colours that are positioned directly opposite one another on the wheel. For example, blue and yellow, orange and indigo or red and green. These looks are always powerful and striking as the colours are so different, yet complement each other. This works well if there is one dominant colour mixed with smaller quantities of other colours; if there are equal amounts in the same scheme, then the overall result can become a bit too much.*

## EXPERT TIP

'Paint is an inexpensive way to transform a room. If it looks wrong, all you've lost is time and not a lot of money. You can always change the colour without too much hassle'

Marianne Shillingford,  
creative director,  
Dulux

### SAFFRON YELLOW & BLACK

Use one dominating colour, such as the yellow and choose pops of a contrasting colour, such as the stark black for a visual statement. Wall in yellow-pink 46 matt emulsion; woodwork in lamp-black 228 eggshell; both £35 per 2.5ltr, Little Greene

## CONTRASTING IDEAS



Purple infusion 3, rich havana 4, expresso delight 3



Moroccan velvet 2, mango melody 2, jade cluster 2



Azure sky 1, auburn falls 3, Pharaohs gold 2, all Dulux





**ALL BLUE**  
Shutters and walls in Niagara blues (custom colour paint), Dulux. Shutters, from £177 per sq m, California Shutters

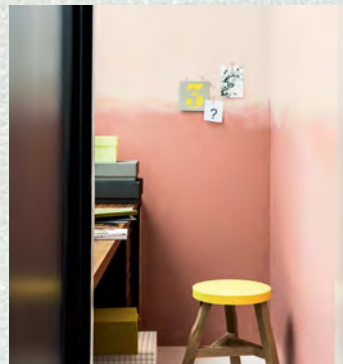
## TRY OUT saturation schemes

*Not for the faint hearted; this look requires one single colour. Paint every element – from walls to woodwork, flooring and shelving in the same hue. If you want a particularly intense effect, match furniture and accessories, too. This is a fashionable look, but it's a big commitment, so be sure you can live with this scheme long-term before you take the plunge.*

### Be inspired by accessories

Sometimes you'll spot a throw or a cushion with a beautiful pattern and a colour combination you can't resist. If you fall for an accessory, you can make it the starting point for your entire decorating scheme – copy the colours and patterns to your walls for a cohesive, professional look.

### THREE OF THE BEST new paint effects



#### ↑ SUBTLE FEATHERING

Overlap two colours with gentle brush strokes, or sponge where they meet for a softer effect. Top in party surprise 5; lower in powdered heather; both matt emulsion, £24.49 per 2.5ltr, Dulux



#### ↑ FREESTYLE PAINTING

Don't view woodwork, flooring and walls as separate elements – start seeing your room as one seamless canvas that can be painted however you like. Use masking tape to create your own borders and edges, introducing shapes and features. Wall in banana yellow matt emulsion, £25 per 2.5ltr, Habitat



#### ↑ VIBRANT CEILINGS

Keep walls white or paint them in a pale neutral, then inject a vibrant hue above the picture rail for a room that's flooded with colour and appears bigger. Ceiling in shocking pink matt emulsion, £24.99 per 2.5ltr, Crown Paints



# DESIGN

# neutral schemes

*These are soft, tranquil colours that are timelessly stylish and always easy to live with. Use them as a base for stronger accent colours, or just combine a few different neutral colours for a restful scheme with a natural look. If you're decorating with this palette, add plenty of tactile textiles, patterns and layers to prevent your room feeling too boring or beige, or create interest with tonal neutrals and/or monochrome elements for a touch of drama.*

## SOFT PUTTY & WARM TAUPE

Walls in suede matt emulsion, £39 per 2.5ltr; wood panelling in pheasant acrylic eggshell, £49 per 2.5ltr; shutters in warm white acrylic eggshell, £49 per 2.5ltr; all Zoffany

## EXPERT TIP

'Beware of printed paint cards which won't have a true representation of colour or finish. Use one that has real painted colours; if your chosen brand only supplies printed cards, then using a tester pot is essential'

Lisa Allen, Editor-in-chief,  
*Good Homes*

## NEUTRAL IDEAS



Bone China blue pale,  
Bone China blue, carys



Slaked lime, slaked lime  
dark, palatine



Chemise, pink slip, carmine,  
all Little Greene





#### LAYER WITH PATTERN

In a bedroom, paint walls and floors dark grey or black for an all-enveloping, cocoon-like space. Liven the look with patterned details. All products from Marks & Spencer

## CREATE

# monochrome schemes

*Not officially colours, black and white don't feature on the wheel, but they're always powerful in a scheme – especially used together. All-black or dark-grey walls provide a great backdrop for white accessories – look out for monochrome prints and patterns that juxtapose light with dark. Contrary to popular belief, all-black walls (like all-white) also have an enlarging effect. Dark walls convey a sense of depth, so work well in small spaces.*

### Warm and cool

Neutrals fall into two main categories: warm have cosy underlying tones such as red, pink, yellow or brown; while cool have chilly undertones such as blue, black or green. You can use cool anywhere, but make sure you have warm lighting if using in a bedroom or living room, otherwise it could feel very uninviting. Use warm pinkish putty colours and rich taupes to warm up cold, north-facing rooms.

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## UNDERSTAND

### colour psychology

How colours make us feel is very personal as we all have our own individual influences, experiences and associations that affect how we respond to and feel around different hues. For example, one person might find yellow stimulating, cheering and energising, while another might find it intense and distracting. Generally, pale and cool colours such as blue and green are considered to be the most calming – perhaps because they are reminiscent of sea, sky and trees – reminding us of long, lazy days. Rich colours like dark reds or plum purples can trigger emotions such as passion.



#### ↑ COOL BLUE TO RELAX

Choose a soothing soft blue for your bedroom if you want to create a peaceful atmosphere – this colour will make most people feel at ease. Wall in Bedford Square No.229 matt emulsion, £34.66 per 2.5ltr, Mylands



#### ↑ VIBRANT RED TO STAY ALERT

It's the colour of danger in the natural world, so perhaps that's why most of us feel wide awake when we're in a room that's painted a rich red. It's a good choice for a kitchen or craft room, where you'll be busy and need to feel fully alert. Walls in ruby ribbon matt emulsion eco clay paint, £30 per 2.5ltr, Earthborn



# Your decorating QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Inspiring room-scheme ideas, clever space-saving solutions and innovative ways to warm up your home this month



## FIRE STARTER

**Q** *Can you recommend a reasonably priced wood-burning stove for our first home? They all seem so expensive.*

**A** The Morsø 1000 Swift Series (H54.6xW38.8xD43.8cm) is a brand-new, affordable wood-burning stove that's perfect for first-time homeowners who have limited space and budget, but don't want to compromise on style and heat. Priced at £599, it has all the benefits of a larger wood-burning stove but at a fraction of the price.

## BOLD STATEMENT

**Q** *I want a bold-but-light look in my hallway that's also hardwearing.*

**A** Geometric wallpaper, like this new design from Villa Nova, teamed with easy-to-clean wood panelling, creates a smart and contemporary look. Choose a neutral palette and paint the panelling in an eggshell finish, so marks can easily be wiped off. Claremont chrome wallpaper W535/O3, £43 per roll, Villa Nova. Panelling painted in Joanna intelligent eggshell, £51 per 2.5ltr, Little Greene.



## ILLUMINATING IDEA

**Q** *After redecorating my bathroom in a modern country style, I'm looking for new lighting to go with the scheme, but I can't find anything I like.*

**A** Why not widen your search to include outdoor lighting? Exterior lights would look great and, because they are made for outside use, you know they are safe to use in a bathroom. This barn light in charcoal (H28xDia12cm), £45, Garden Trading, would fit in well with a modern country scheme.



## COSY COLOURS

**Q** *Recently, I painted my living room grey, but it feels quite cold. What are the best complementary colours to warm it up?*

**A** You could try adding a warm orange feature wall. This colour combination works with all shades of grey; with a light dove shade add a copper or rust orange, for an on-trend look, or if you have dark pumice on the walls, team with a rich pumpkin orange to create instant warmth. If you don't want to redecorate, you could simply add cushions and throws in different shades of this warming tone. Walls painted in celebrity and sidewalk, both £23.99 per 2.5ltr, Fashion for Walls collection, Crown Paints.





## ALL LINED UP

**Q** *I love stripes and have looked at many wallpapers, but can't find one that is quite right. Any other suggestions?*

**A** Create your own look by painting stripes on the walls. You can pick the colours you want to match the upholstery and other accessories you have, and paint as many or as few stripes as you like. Horizontal stripes create a more contemporary look and are great if you want to make a space feel wider. Mix two or three neutral shades with a couple of stronger colours and vary the widths in a random pattern. Wall painted in dove feather, olive branch, Brighton blue and oyster grey, all matt emulsion, from £14 per 2.5ltr, Next Home.

## SPACE-SAVING SOLUTIONS

**Q** *We want to create a home office but only have a small space. Can you suggest something that will work?*

**A** Landings and hallways are traditionally under-used spaces. The Gaston wall bureau, £525, by Harto at Heal's, is a good option because it can be hung on the wall. It frees up floor space and can be used as a shelf, as well as a desk area. Similarly, the Brenta wall desk (H44xW74xD8.1cm), £169 from John Lewis, is an excellent space-saving design; when open, the metal surface has space for a laptop and when closed it takes up no space at all. For a unit that has everything, the Flatmate (H1,135xW71xD12cm), from £880, from The Sofa Bed Company, is the one – it has storage space, integrated power supply and a glare-free light. Add a fold-up chair and you've got the perfect compact occasional home office.





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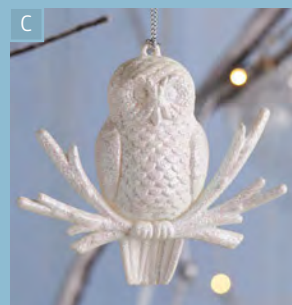
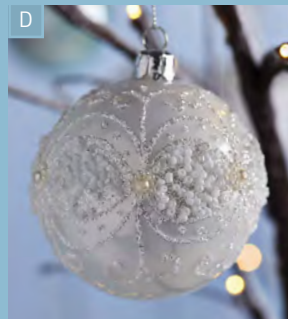
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MAKE IT SPECIAL

# Into the blue

*Update everyday items with easy paint effects and dip-dye techniques for a homemade finish*



## Unique patterned tableware

*Personalise a plain mug by painting on your own design; use contrasting colours, such as blue and white, for a bold effect*

- 1** Make sure the surface of your mug is clean by wiping it with rubbing alcohol using a lint-free towel to remove any grease.
- 2** Paint your design onto the mug's surface using gloss enamel paint (available from craft stores, approximately £2). For a marbled effect, drag a paintbrush through the different colours to blend into the desired pattern.
- 3** Place your finished mug in a cool oven and set it to 200°C/180°C fan oven/gas mark 6. Do not preheat the oven, as this can cause the mug to crack or shatter. Bake the mug for 30 minutes.
- 4** Once baked, turn the heat off and allow the mug to cool in the oven. Wash the mug by hand to preserve the design.





## Striped curtain

*The blurred lines achieved with this method will create a more relaxed version of a wide-striped fabric*

- 1 Wash a piece of natural fabric, such as cotton or linen. While still damp, lay it flat on the floor. From the wide edge, fold in a concertina until the whole piece is folded into a long strip.
- 2 Tie pieces of non-coloured string or twine around the folded fabric at equal intervals. You must ensure that you pull the string very tightly.
- 3 Choose a household fabric dye and follow the instructions on the packaging to mix up several litres in which to submerge your fabric. Leave submerged for the recommended time, then rinse, untie and rinse again. Leave to dry naturally.

## Finishing touch

*You could also dip dye an oversized tassel tie-back to complement your curtains*

## Leaf silhouettes

*It's easy to create your own unique artwork and give your room scheme a really personal touch*

- 1 Choose a leafy stem in the shape that you like. It's best to go for thicker, robust leaves, as lighter ones may break during the process.
- 2 Lay flat a piece of white (or coloured if you prefer) card that you want to put the design on.
- 3 Flatten out all of the leaves on your stem, then spray one side with an adhesive and carefully fix the stem to the card. Ensure all the leaves are pressed flat to avoid paint seeping underneath.
- 4 Pour some craft paint into a small paint tray and roll a mini roller through it. Work the roller over the flat part of the tray to ensure it is not overloaded, then roll it over the leafy stem on the cardboard. For a sleeker finish, you could use spray paint instead.
- 5 When the paint is completely dry, peel off the leafy stem and mount the card in a frame.





## Scrunch-dyed fabric

*A random pattern created with this method of dyeing is perfect for contemporary cushions*

- 1 Wash a piece of natural fabric.
- 2 While still damp, scrunch it up very tightly into a ball and tie up with string.
- 2 Using a household fabric dye, follow the instructions to mix it up, then fill a squeeze bottle with the mix. If you are using different colours, fill all the separate bottles you require now, ready to use.
- 3 Put your scrunched-up fabric inside an empty bucket or sink.
- 4 Squirt the coloured dye over the scrunched fabric randomly. Push the nozzle of the bottle into some of the creases to get the colour deeper into the fabric as well. Leave to dry overnight inside a plastic bag.
- 5 Rinse the fabric without untying it. Then, when the water runs clear, untie and rinse again. Make sure it is fully dry before cutting and sewing into a cushion cover.

SIMPLE  
TO MAKE





## Dip-edge chair covers

*This easy method will give plain fabric an interesting twist. Try it with curtains or bed sheets too*

- 1 To ensure you dye the correct part of these chair covers, make them first or buy ready-made white ones.
- 2 Bunch together the fabric at the bottom of the covers and tie it tightly with string.
- 3 As a precaution and to prevent splashes and stains, put the cover inside a large plastic bag, with just the area you wish to dye poking out.
- 4 Follow the instructions on your household fabric dye and fill a bucket to about 4in deep. Dip the exposed fabric in the dye for the recommended period of time. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry.

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*Finishing touch*  
*Why not complete your scheme with a matching table runner?*

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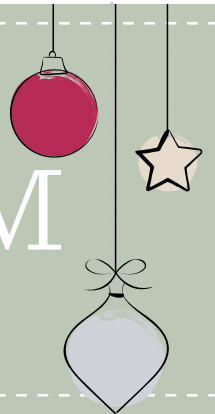
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# Updating your KITCHEN & BATHROOM

*Make a big difference when it comes  
to transforming your busiest rooms*



p144



*Buy the best*

p152

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## KITCHEN MAKEOVER 1

# 'THE NEW LAYOUT WORKS PERFECTLY'

*Opening up the back of her house gave Kate Camfield the ideal kitchen for family life and entertaining*

BEFORE



## KITCHEN DETAILS

### HOMEOWNERS

Kate, a music publisher, and husband Jiggs Camfield, a PR consultant

**AGES** 45 & 46

**FAMILY** Lucas, 7

### LOCATION

East Sheen, London

### PROPERTY

A four-bedroom Edwardian terrace

### COST OF

### NEW KITCHEN

**Cabinetry** £12,632

**Worksurfaces** £5,400

**Appliances** £2,487

**Flooring** £3,110

**Sink & taps** £673

**TOTAL** £24,302





When Kate and Joggs Camfield bought their London home four years ago, they found the perfect location and style of house they were looking for, but

they knew the interior would have to be completely refurbished. The property had been rented out for 20 years and was in a pretty sorry state. 'It needed work from top to bottom, so while all the messy work was being carried out we added a loft conversion to create another bedroom and en suite, followed by a new bathroom on the first floor,' explains Kate. 'Our builder suggested we start upstairs and work our way down, which meant the kitchen was the last job on the list.'

Like many older-style houses, the rooms were small and not designed for the sociable open-plan layouts that are preferred today. The couple knocked the kitchen and dining room into one large room and added an extension at the back to give them some extra space. 'We wanted an adaptable room where we could spend time as a family and our son Lucas could play or do his homework while we cook,' Kate says. 'We also wanted it to be an informal space for entertaining.'

Kate met up with Kate Diss from local company Kitchens Upon Thames and between them they ▶

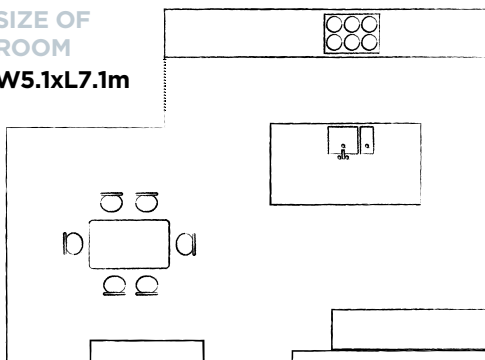
#### ← SUBTLE SHADES

Bi-fold doors and a roof light ensure the room is filled with light. Simple wooden bar stools complement the warm tones of the wood floor

#### ↓ MODERN CLASSIC

The couple chose cabinetry in a timeless style, with a colour palette of muted greys to give them a contemporary feel

SIZE OF ROOM  
W5.1xL7.1m



#### WORK CARRIED OUT

The kitchen and dining room were knocked into one room with a small rear extension. Bi-fold doors were included to introduce light and for garden access

#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

A fridge-freezer is housed in a tall unit on the left, with base units and open shelving. The sink and dishwasher are built in to the kitchen island, with additional cabinetry opposite





agreed plans for a simple Shaker-style scheme. The couple don't have a separate utility room, so a spacious cupboard was designed to house the boiler and washing machine next to their existing fridge-freezer, while a large island dominates the centre, becoming the hub of the room. 'I have a friend who works for Farrow & Ball and she helped me choose the contrasting grey shades for the units and walls,' explains Kate.

Their best decision was to not knock through to incorporate the living room as well, as they had originally contemplated. Now they still have a separate place to relax in, and when friends come over the children and adults can be in different rooms. 'It was important for us to define the two spaces,' Kate adds.

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## ↓ INFORMAL DINING

Kate and Joggs have given the antique wooden dining table a retro flavour with Eames dining chairs in a neutral colour



*'It was important for us to define the two spaces'*

## SHOPPING LIST

**UNITS** Bespoke English units painted in Farrow & Ball's hardwick white, £12,632, Kitchens Upon Thames **WORKTOPS** Silestone Iyra quartz worktops, from £800 per sq m, Kitchens Upon Thames **APPLIANCES** Rangemaster Professional Plus 90 stainless-steel cooker, £1,639; Rangemaster stainless-steel 90cm cooker hood, £319; Siemens SN65M031GB dishwasher, £529; all Coopers Appliances **SINK & TAPS** Silksteel kitchen tap, £209; Kubus 160 1.5 bowl undermount sink, £464; both Franke **FLOORING** Hampstead oak brown flooring, from £88.85 per sq m, Ecora **FURNITURE** Weathered oak stools, £145 each, Cox & Cox. Rustic oak farmhouse table, from £1,080, Peppermill Antiques **PAINT** Walls painted in wimborne white estate emulsion, £36 per 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

## IDEAS TO STEAL

*Copy Kate's relaxed, informal style in your own home*



### ^ Plan your storage

Incorporate deep pan drawers into your kitchen design; with easy access they're ideal for storing tableware, too



### ^ Choose simple fittings

An undermount sink looks discreet and understated on an island teamed with a sleek, modern tap



### ^ Include open shelving

If you don't want your walls to be dominated by units, include simple shelves to make the room feel open





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## KITCHEN MAKEOVER 2

# 'I WANTED A LIGHT SPACE'

*Jill Trewick turned her narrow kitchen into a bright, functional family space using sleek white units, black worktops and pops of colour*

BEFORE



## KITCHEN DETAILS

### HOMEOWNERS

Jill, a full-time mum and husband Andy Trewick, an electrician

**AGES** 43 and 44

### FAMILY

Daniel, 4 and Anna, 3

### LOCATION

Sunderland

### PROPERTY

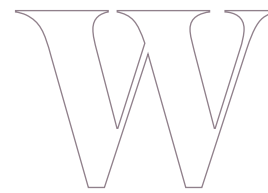
A three-bedroom detached Fifties home

### COST OF

### NEW KITCHEN

<b>Cabinetry</b>	£4,600
<b>Worksurfaces</b>	£2,125
<b>Appliances</b>	£3,750
<b>Flooring &amp; splashbacks</b>	£1,580
<b>Sink &amp; taps</b>	£565
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£12,620</b>





hen Jill and Andy Trewick bought their three-bedroom detached home back in June 2010, they lived with the cramped galley kitchen

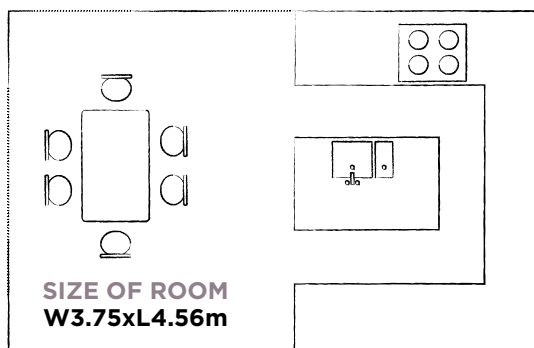
for more than a year. 'In fact, it was the last room to be renovated, as we had planned a big extension on our corner plot to incorporate a new kitchen,' explains Jill. The original room had pine units, cream Formica worktops, blue carpet tiles and a blue ceiling. 'I couldn't wait to rip it out, but as a temporary measure to make the room more bearable we painted the ceiling white and laid a cream linoleum floor that would last until the extension, which we began in April 2011,' adds Jill. As Andy is an electrician and has a good friend who is a plumber, they did much of the work at evenings and weekends, but this left the family without a kitchen for five weeks. To solve this problem they created a mini makeshift kitchen from the old one, putting down plywood in the dining area so that it wouldn't ▶

#### ← REFLECTIVE SURFACES

As there are no windows in the kitchen, the white units and black worktops bounce light around making the space feel brighter

#### ↓ SPACE SAVER

The island separates the kitchen and dining areas in the open-plan room. It works well in the small kitchen, as it makes the most of the available space



#### WORK CARRIED OUT

As part of a new extension, the old kitchen was ripped out and replaced with a new larger one

#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

The new kitchen extension now includes an open-plan dining area, which looks out on to the back garden. The kitchen/diner leads to a second living room next door and between these rooms are tall cupboards, which create a utility space for storing mops and the vacuum cleaner





damage the new white flooring. 'Although Andy is used to working off-plan, I struggled to visualise the layout until the extension was completed, which made it all the more exciting to move into,' explains Jill. 'We chose white high-gloss units from Howdens to suit our budget and they really bounce the light around the bright open space.' Now the kitchen is so airy and pleasant, the family spend most of their time at the back of the house. 'I love the fact it overlooks the garden, so I can keep my eye on the children when they play outside while I'm washing up. The new layout works so much better for family life,' adds Jill.

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#### ↓ **RAINBOW BRIGHTS**

Jill's brightly coloured chairs add interest and really stand out against the pure white walls, floor and dining table



## SHOPPING LIST

**KITCHEN** Glendevon units, £4,600, Howdens. Savanna quartz worktops, £2,125, Meridian Work Surfaces **TILES** Mirror quartz splashback tiles; Mirror white quartz floor tiles; both £79 per sq m, Tile Giant **LIGHTING** Roven pendant light, £194, Branded Lighting. Ceiling spotlights, £220, Simple Lighting **APPLIANCES** Bosch Avantixx HBM13B251B electric oven, £548; Bosch Exxcel HMT85ML53B microwave £489; both Currys. Bosch Induction hob PIE675N14E, £578, John Lewis **FURNITURE** Tank dining table, £649, Furniture Village. Glass shelves, £60, Pinesway Glass. Purity wooden blinds, £120, Hillarys **ACCESSORIES** Kenwood Kmix kettle, £44.95, Sainsbury's. Joseph Joseph chopping mat, £15, Debenhams. Wesco scales, £69.95; Orla Kiely mugs, £8.50 each; Now Designs oven mitt, £11; egg cups, £1.20 each; LSA vase £36; Freeform tray, £15; Maxwell bottles, £3.95 each; all Fenwick **PAINT** walls in polished pebble matt emulsion, £18.98 per 2.5ltr, Dulux

## IDEAS TO STEAL

*Inspired by Jill's modern kitchen?  
Copy her look with these tips*



#### ^ **Streamline your space**

Integrated appliances look sleek in a modern kitchen and are great if you are short on workspace



#### ^ **Add splashes of colour**

Brighten up a monochrome scheme by choosing brightly-coloured accessories that really stand out



#### ^ **Show off your glassware**

Display coloured bottles, vases and books on simple glass shelves for an uncluttered, stylish look





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## KITCHEN MAKEOVER 3

# 'OUR KITCHEN IS SO ECO FRIENDLY'

*Marion and Paul Allison have chosen green solutions and the most elegant of mod-cons for their new open-plan kitchen*



BEFORE



## KITCHEN DETAILS

### HOMEOWNERS

Marion and husband Paul Allison, who has his own building company

### LOCATION

Fowey, Cornwall

### PROPERTY

Two-bedroom, three-storey house, built in 2012

### COST OF

### NEW KITCHEN

<b>Units</b>	£16,227
<b>Worktops &amp; sink</b>	£7,320
<b>Taps</b>	£765
<b>Flooring</b>	£1,218
<b>Appliances</b>	£11,398
<b>Splashback</b>	£240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£37,168</b>





Marion and Paul Allison decided to make their new-build house as economical as possible. So when Paul, a builder, constructed it two years ago on the site of an old tennis court, he installed underfloor heating on each of the three floors, a Villivant recirculated air system, photo-voltaic panels on the roof to generate electricity and a rainwater harvesting system. 'We also have very good insulation,' he adds. A rainwater waste and filter system supplies water to their four WCs and washing machine.

The couple decided their ground floor would be an open-plan kitchen, living and dining space with a big L-shaped island dividing the working and living areas. An oak-topped breakfast table sits in the angle of the island and this was made by Paul using a stainless-steel pole to match the steel and glass staircase. This and the balustrade was made and fitted by a local engineering company Future Structures, which organised the powder coating to match the colour of the units.

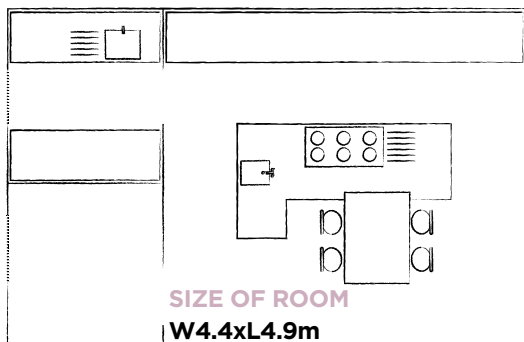
The flooring is practical black porcelain tiling for the kitchen area and European engineered-oak throughout the rest of the room. A magnificent set of bespoke European-oak bi-fold triple-glazed doors that match those in the sitting room takes up the end wall, so ▶

#### ← CALM COLOUR

Marion chose soothing shades of white and aqua for her kitchen units to soften the high-gloss effect. This is complemented by light wooden flooring

#### ↓ LINEAR FEEL

The L-shaped layout makes the most of the streamlined space, with floating cabinets above the sink area to balance the lack of wall units and add interest



#### WORK CARRIED OUT

Underfloor heating was added beneath the engineered oak flooring. The entire kitchen has been replaced and glass doors were fitted

#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

A row of units run along the back wall, with a large island in the middle of the kitchen. This houses the sink, dishwasher, induction hob and breakfast bar. Large glass doors fill the right-hand wall and let in lots of light





the couple can see the garden throughout the year. 'We went along to Grand Designs Live in London before we started to design the house and decide on the fittings,' says Marion. 'Initially we wanted a certain brand of kitchen, but it turned out too expensive. In the end we went to Roomers of Exmouth, which suggested a very similar design from Germany by a manufacturer called Schuller.' It was at the same show that the couple also saw the V-Zug Swiss ovens and dishwasher, which they also bought from Roomers of Exmouth. Their Schuller high-gloss cabinetry is painted partly in brilliant white and partly in aqua metallic and Marion chose Corian worktops and two moulded Corian sinks.

'I wanted a bright, cheerful kitchen with all the latest mod-cons,' says Marion. 'Must-haves included an ISE boiling water tap, my two ovens that flank the work surface on the back wall and have a lovely black-glass mirrored finish and my wok induction hob,' she adds.

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#### ↓ LIGHT & AIRY

European oak bi-fold doors give a great view of the garden. These bespoke, triple-glazed doors also match the brushed-oak flooring

*'I wanted a bright, cheerful kitchen with mod-cons'*



## SHOPPING LIST

**KITCHEN UNITS** Schuller cabinetry, £16,227; Festival Corian worktop and Mixa sink, £7,320; Frosty green glass splashback, £240; all Roomers of Exmouth **TAPS** ISE boiling water tap and extra cold tap, £765; both Roomers of Exmouth **APPLIANCES** Liebherr integrated fridge, £2,311; V-Zug Comhair SLP single oven £3,005; V-Zug combi steam oven £3,210; V-Zug warming drawer, £930; AEG front line future induction teppanaki hob, £1,714; AEG front line future 2 zone induction hob, £665; FM induction wok hob, £114; Deditrich downdraft extractor hood, £1,760 **FURNITURE** Oak worktop for breakfast table, £288; Leo Gas Lift high bar stools in silver, £33.50 each; all Capricorn Imports Ltd **LIGHTING** Ceiling lights, £375 Amos Lighting **FLOORING** European oak flooring, £54 per sq m, Travis Perkins **TILES** Avenue Black Lappado tiles, £47.50 per sq m, Porcelanosa **DOORS** European oak bi-fold doors, £4,100, Restormel Joinery

## IDEAS TO STEAL

*Adapt Marion's contemporary style to suit your kitchen space*



#### ^ Choose smart appliances

Take the hard work out of cooking with an extra tap that provides boiling and filtered cold water



#### ^ Make the most of your space

A cleverly placed breakfast bar will provide extra serving and eating space without dominating the room



#### ^ Use hidden storage

For a seamless-looking kitchen, choose a pull-out larder unit that can hold myriad jars and bottles





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# Choose the right RANGE COOKER

The latest designs are multifunctional and have a host of innovative features that will help make cooking easier

**R**ange cookers are a great choice for keen chefs and family cooks alike. In general they are bigger than a standard 60cm freestanding or slot-in cooker (90cm and 100cm wide is usual), with multiple ovens, a separate grill and up to six burners or rings on the hob. Strictly speaking, a range cooker was originally a cast-iron heat storage cooker with a boiler to provide heating and hot water as well. Today we generally refer to any wide freestanding cooker (ie. not built-in and with ovens and hob in a single unit) as a range cooker. Aga and Rayburn have just introduced 60cm width versions that are perfect for smaller kitchens but still have the functions of a traditional range cooker.

The most important decision to start with is the fuel: there is all electric; all gas; gas hob/ electric ovens; and for heat-storage versions, the choice can be between solid fuel, logs, gas, oil and LPG. Belling has just launched a double-oven range cooker that has both an electric oven and a gas oven – a good choice for cooks who want to take advantage of both fuels. And of course there are options for ceramic and induction electric hobs, gas rings, griddles, hot plates and perhaps a gas chef-top burner (a professional-style cast-iron plate that has graduated heat zones). Other special features may include a separate grill and a warming/storage drawer.

Glass, stainless steel and colourful enamels are the main finish options – if you dislike cleaning ovens, bear in mind that a glass door does need a bit more elbow grease and attention than a solid door. For a 90cm-100cm width range cooker, you can expect to spend about £1,000-£2,000 on a mid-range model, £2,000 plus on higher-spec versions, and from £5,000 for a cast-iron heat storage model. Installation is generally straightforward, with the usual gas/electric connections.



**CONTEMPORARY COOKING**  
The HVD93951V twin-cavity range cooker, W90cm, comes in ivory (shown), black or black/steel, £1,400, Hoover



**PLENTY OF SPACE**  
Smeg's TR4110AZ Victoria range cooker in blue, W110cm, has seven gas burners

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

- **Ovens** Choose from a fan, static or conventional oven. Multifunction ovens can have up to nine functions, including defrost mode and top and bottom heat.
- **Grill** A separate grill offers flexible cooking and is often teamed with two ovens and a storage/warming drawer. Look for dual-circuit models, so half can be used for smaller quantities.
- **Gas hob** Look for a wok burner (a super-fast burner) for quick cooking and a cast-iron griddle to sear meat and fish.
- **Induction hob** This is very quick to heat up (it heats the pan, not the surface) and is energy efficient and safe when in use.
- **Energy ratings** All manufacturers list the rating – look for A-rated models.
- **Pyrolytic cleaning** This burns off residue from the inside of the oven at up to 500°C for effective and efficient cleaning.

*It is important to check whether the roof liners and glass in the doors of your range cooker can be removed, as this will make cleaning much easier*



## Under £1,000



£950

VERSATILE  
DESIGN



£995



£999

### PLENTY OF SPACE

A good-value choice with cast-iron pan supports, the CCG9M52PX from Candy has a large single oven with 108ltr capacity, a storage drawer, integral upstand and smart black-glass finish.

- A rated; LED programmer
- Five gas burners, including wok burner
- H90xW90xD60cm

### CLASSIC COMBINATION

The Classic 90 GT range cooker by Belling has a unique configuration of gas hob and oven, plus an electric oven. It comes in grey (shown), black and cream enamel.

- A rated; LED programmer
- Left-hand oven conventional gas, 62ltr; right-hand electric fan oven, 91ltr
- H90xW90xD60cm

### MODERN STYLING

If you are looking for a sleek and stylish design, choose the JLRC907 dual-fuel twin-oven range cooker from John Lewis. It has a gas hob, five burners, 107ltr oven capacity and a stainless-steel upstand.

- A rated; LED programmer
- Dual-circuit electric grill in main oven
- H90xW90xD60cm

## £1,000-£2,000

*A model with a warming/storage drawer is invaluable in a busy kitchen*



£1,350



£1,595



£1,995

### GREAT FOR GRILLING

Baumatic's BCDE1025SS dual-fuel twin-cavity range cooker looks and feels professional; it has two ovens (50ltr and 35ltr capacity) with a full-width grill in each and a five-burner gas hob.

- A rated
- Minute minder
- H97xW100xD600cm

### COMPACT OPTION

The X60 range cooker from Bertazonni has all the features of a traditional model, but trimmed down to W60cm for the smaller kitchen. It has four gas burners and comes in nine different colours.

- A rated
- Single electric oven and grill
- H88.5-94.5xW59.5xD60cm

### WEALTH OF FEATURES

Great for those who love baking, the Nexus from Rangemaster has a unique proving drawer. Other features include an ultra-stylish rotary control, two separate 69ltr capacity ovens, a dual-circuit electric grill and a griddle/hot plate.

- A rated; LED programmer
- H90.5-93xW109.2xD64.8cm



£3,000-£4,500



£3,499

INDUCTION  
OPTION

### SPEEDY COOKING

The Delphi 90 single-cavity range cooker in red from Britannia has a soft-close storage drawer, heavy-duty shelves on telescopic runners and stay-clean liners.

- A rated; LED programmer
- Nine-function electric oven and grill
- Five-zone induction hob
- H87-91xW89.5xD60cm



£4,300

### CONTEMPORARY COLOURS

If colour is important to you, the 1200 range cooker from Mercury has an excellent choice, including truffle (shown), blueberry and purple haze. It has 68ltr and 79ltr capacity ovens, a separate grill and a five-burner gas hob.

- A rated; LED programmer
- H92-95xW119xD63.8cm

### Get installation right

**MAKE SPACE** Ensure there is enough room (a few mm) to allow side-hung oven doors to open fully. A chimney- or ceiling-mounted extractor should have at least 65cm clearance (preferably 75cm) above the cooker.

**BE SAFE** Any gas work must be carried out by Gas-Safe-registered tradespeople; to view the official list of registered engineers, visit [gassaferegister.co.uk](http://gassaferegister.co.uk). If you have a wood-burning stove in the same room, regulations state that extractors must be set up to recirculate or you may be at risk of pulling noxious fumes into the room.

**CHECK CONNECTIONS** If you're using an installation service, make sure the existing electric and gas connections meet the required standards or the installers may not be able to complete the job and you will still be charged.

£4,500-£7,000



£4,999

### PRETTY PASTELS

A new slimline model, the City 60 Traditional electric heat storage cooker by Aga is energy efficient and comes in a range of colours, including lemon and rose (shown). It has two ovens (one for baking/roasting, one for simmering) that can be programmed to turn on and off.

- H91xW60xD62.3cm



£5,458

### FULL OF FUNCTIONS

The flue-less CAT gas range cooker by Esse has two ovens and two spacious hot-plates. Its energy-saving settings include slumber-mode for gentle background warmth.

- Programmable timer
- Available in 20 colours
- H90xW90.5xD60cm



£6,975

### ALL-ROUND PERFORMANCE

For a model that does more than cook, choose the Rayburn Heatranger 480 AL/AG, which can also supply hot water and central heating for up to 16 radiators.

- Programmable timer
- Shown in cream, other colours include claret and British racing green
- H90xW90xD60cm

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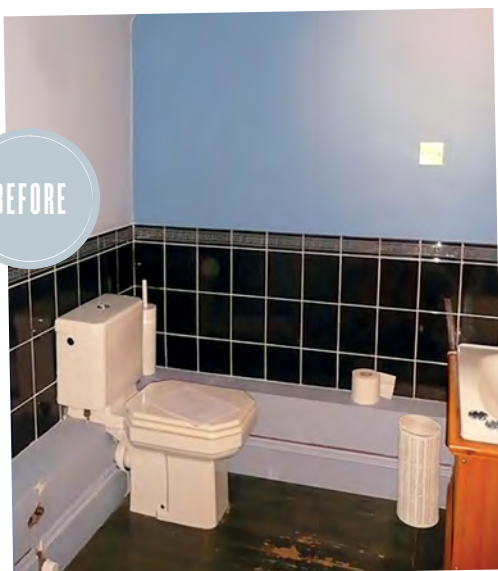
## BATHROOM MAKEOVER 1

# ‘MY EN SUITE IS A CHILD-FREE ZONE’

*With a luxurious feel and contemporary scheme, Elaine Furner's boutique-style bathroom was designed for pure escapism*



BEFORE



## BATHROOM DETAILS

### HOMEOWNERS

Elaine and husband Dave Furner, who is an energy trader

**AGES** 40 & 43

### FAMILY

One daughter, 6, and twin sons, 3

### LOCATION

Oxfordshire village

### PROPERTY

Detached modern house

### COST OF NEW BATHROOM

<b>Sanitaryware</b>	£2,612
<b>Shower</b>	£4,897
<b>Furniture</b>	£2,800
<b>Brassware</b>	£3,180
<b>Tiles</b>	£2,745
<b>Heating</b>	£292
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16,526</b>





**D**ark tiles, bright painted walls and garden decking leading up to the shower; Elaine Furner's en-suite bathroom certainly had an interesting scheme when she bought her house with husband Dave five years ago. Unfortunately, the refurbishment of other rooms, such as the kitchen, became a priority and it was only recently that the couple decided it was time to tackle the en suite and adjoining bedroom.

There was an alcove in the bedroom that the couple wanted to turn into a walk-in wardrobe and the en suite had a very strange layout. Elaine explains: 'There were double basins in a recess just outside the bathroom door and we were keen to have these incorporated in to the actual bathroom.' Elaine found local bathroom company InStil Design online and senior designer Karen Beecroft came up with a scheme to square off the entrance to the bathroom to create space for the basins inside, as well as creating a door opposite for the walk-in wardrobe.

Karen recommended David Carrier Bathrooms to do the installation. It made sense to site the new sanitaryware in the original positions as, despite the ▶

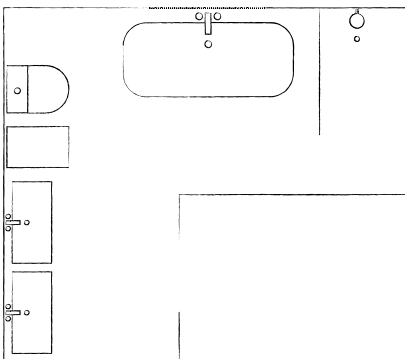
#### ← SLEEK DESIGN

With vanity units below the wash basins and large mirrored cabinets above, there is plenty of storage space to keep surfaces tidy and clutter-free

#### ↓ SPACE ENHANCER

Extending the shower across the full width of the room creates space for a walk-in design with overhead and wall-mounted showers

**SIZE OF ROOM**  
**W3.8x**  
**L4.5m**



#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

The basins are on the left-hand side leading on to the WC, with the bath in front of the window. The walk-in shower is built in to the recess on the right-hand side of the room

#### WORK CARRIED OUT

The room was completely refurbished with internal walls moved to include double basins in the scheme and create an entrance to a new walk-in wardrobe





oddities, the general layout worked well. 'We did ask Karen to increase the shower space to stretch the whole width of the room,' says Elaine. 'The old layout had a small shower with fussy open shelving and we wanted the room to flow better with everything hidden.'

When it came to choosing the room scheme, the couple were keen to create some grown-up space where they could retreat to. Everywhere else has to be practical and child-friendly, but this room could feel a little more luxurious and decadent. 'I liked the idea of having our own sanctuary and the design evolved around this, such as having our Sonos sound system extended in to the room so we can listen to music in here,' she explains.

The Moroccan-inspired tiled flooring set the tone of the room and the colour palette grew around their muted shades, with the bath creating a bold statement in the centre of the room. 'We're so pleased with it, the novelty still hasn't worn off,' adds Elaine.

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#### ↓ COLOURFUL ADDITION

The feature floor and panel of white tiles creates the perfect backdrop for the stunning freestanding painted roll-top bath with ornate feet

*'This is the one space in the house the children aren't allowed in'*



## SHOPPING LIST

**SANITARYWARE** Ashton & Bentley Corinthian bath with satin nickel feet, £1,957; UP200 concealed cistern, £170; Quick WC and soft-close seat, £330; Kappa 20 flush plate, £155 **FURNITURE** Indigo Wave 60 vanity units and basins, £750 each; Top-Line 65 mirror cabinets, £650 each **BRASSWARE** Axor Montreux basin mixers with waste, £804 each; bath shower mixer, £1,572 **SHOWER** Monaco shower screen, £1,080; Axor Montreux set for thermostatic mixer, £1,188; iBox basic set, £138; Axor Montreux shower set, £804; Fixfit wall outlet, £57; Carlton showerhead and arm, £768, wet tray and tanking kit, £862 **TILES** Grespania Atacama Marengo tiles, £45 sq m; Saloni Par Contemporanea Blanco tiles, £61 per sq m; Moment Grafito tiles, £58 per tile **HEATING** Bisque Deline Inox towel radiator, £292. All above products, InStil Design **WALLS** painted in 10BB 73/026 matt emulsion, £24.49 per 2.5ltr, Dulux

## IDEAS TO STEAL

Take inspiration from Elaine's scheme for your own en suite



#### ^ Introduce decorative pattern

Break up a large expanse of flooring with a panel of patterned tiles in co-ordinating or contrasting tones



#### ^ Consider storage options

Vanity units with drawers will hide away smaller items such as make up, cotton wool and miniature bottles



#### ^ Choose traditional fittings

Period-style taps look great on any sink, but if you want a more up-to-date look, go for a brushed nickel finish



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## BATHROOM MAKEOVER 2

# 'WE MADE SPACE FOR A SHOWER'

*Colin Blake and Nick Parker re-worked their bathroom layout to fit a sleek, modern shower enclosure into their traditional scheme*



BEFORE



## BATHROOM DETAILS

### HOMEOWNERS

Colin Blake, head of loss prevention for a major retailer, and partner  
Nick Parker, PR manager

**AGES** 50 and 39

### LOCATION

Tunbridge Wells, Kent

### PROPERTY

Period country cottage

### COST OF NEW BATHROOM

<b>Shower</b>	£1,368
<b>Tiles and underfloor heating</b>	£894
<b>Bath refurbishment</b>	£384
<b>Taps</b>	£85
<b>Paint</b>	£189
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,920</b>





Like many period houses, Colin Blake and Nick Parker's country cottage is full of unusual features and an essence of quirkiness. 'We were amazed by the main bathroom when we first walked in,' Colin explains. 'There was this lovely, big room with a beautiful roll-top bath in the corner, squeezed under a wooden slope.' The slope is actually the ceiling of the staircase below, which was moved by previous owners to create a better hallway layout downstairs. The result is an odd-shaped space in the corner of the bathroom that has been left open, so that there is enough room to include a bath.

While the couple's bedroom has a small en-suite shower room, they felt the main bathroom would benefit from a shower as well and looked in to moving the WC under the window to create space for a corner enclosure. 'When guests come to stay they end up using the en-suite shower,' Colin explains. 'We also thought an extra shower would be useful in the mornings when we are both getting ready for work.'

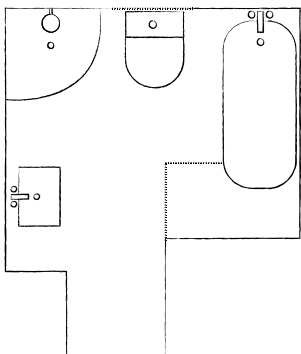
Colin and Nick asked Jeff Selby, from local company Selby Plumbing Services, to work with them on the project. The fixtures and fittings were in really good condition, so they decided to keep what they could and update the scheme with new brassware for the basin and WC, and little details like new chrome furniture for the doors and window. 'The bathroom isn't overlooked, but we thought some people might ▶

#### ← SMART IDEA

The shower wall was brought forward to hide the unsightly pipes, so Colin asked for a recess to be included to keep the toiletries off the floor

#### ↓ UNIQUE DESIGN

A raised platform makes a feature of the bath, which fits perfectly under the panelled slope. Painted in vibrant plum, it adds warmth to the scheme



SIZE OF ROOM  
W3.1x  
L3.6m

#### ← VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

On the left-hand wall are the airing cupboard and sink, with the shower in the corner and WC directly in front of the window. The freestanding bath is positioned on the right on a raised platform

#### WORK CARRIED OUT

The WC was moved to create space for a shower enclosure. The bath was resurfaced and painted, and the whole room was redecorated





feel a little uncomfortable with the WC in front of the window,' says Colin. 'We solved the problem by adding frosted film to the bottom panes to create privacy.'

The quadrant shower cubicle fits seamlessly into the new space and large format tiles were chosen for inside as well as on the floor. 'The curved shape makes it feel sleek and unobtrusive, and the doors just slide around it,' says Colin. The bath needed a bit of work and Jeff recommended Southern Bath Resurfacing, which re-enamelled it. Then all the tongue-and-groove panelling was stripped right back to the wood, repaired and painted. 'We wouldn't have considered replacing the bath; it's beautiful and we feel lucky to have it,' says Colin. 'It just needed a makeover and we didn't replace the bath shower-mixer as it still looked as good as new.'

With new accessories, such as the bevelled glass mirror and leaf wall light, the room now feels a little more luxurious and a lot more inviting.

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#### ↓ CONCEALED STORAGE SPACE

Colin had a small cupboard built on top of the airing cupboard to utilise the wasted space and bring it up to the ceiling for a neater-looking finish



## SHOPPING LIST

**SHOWER** Simpsons luxury quadrant shower cubicle, £499; Merlyn stone resin quadrant tray, £180; Stuart Turner monsoon pump, £320; Hudson Reed twin thermostatic mixer valve, £245; Hudson Reed 5" shower head and arm, £124; Warm Up under-tile heating kit, £180; C-Power CoCo brushed porcelain wall and floor tiles, £42 per sq m; all Selby Plumbing Services. For similar basin taps, try Topaz, £78, Bristan **FURNITURE** Country white cabinet, £93.75, ZiggiZiggi. Sheringham white wood cabinet, £28.50, Tesco Direct. Charme plaster 3D central leaf wall light, £174.16, Weybridge. Large bevelled-edge mirror, £145, Graham & Green **WINDOW** For similar window film, try Brume **PAINT** Walls painted in strong white estate emulsion; £36 per 2.5ltr; wood painted in cornforth white estate eggshell and bath painted in pelt estate eggshell, both £51 per 2.5ltr; all Farrow & Ball

## IDEAS TO STEAL

Use these quick fixes to refresh your bathroom



#### ^ Combine function and style

Traditional brassware complements a roll-top bath and fitting a hand-held shower makes cleaning much easier



#### ^ Make a feature of storage

Use different-sized glass jars to add interest and store bathroom essentials, such as toiletries and cotton wool



#### ^ Update your brassware

Give your bathroom suite an instant makeover by simply replacing the taps and fittings with smart new ones



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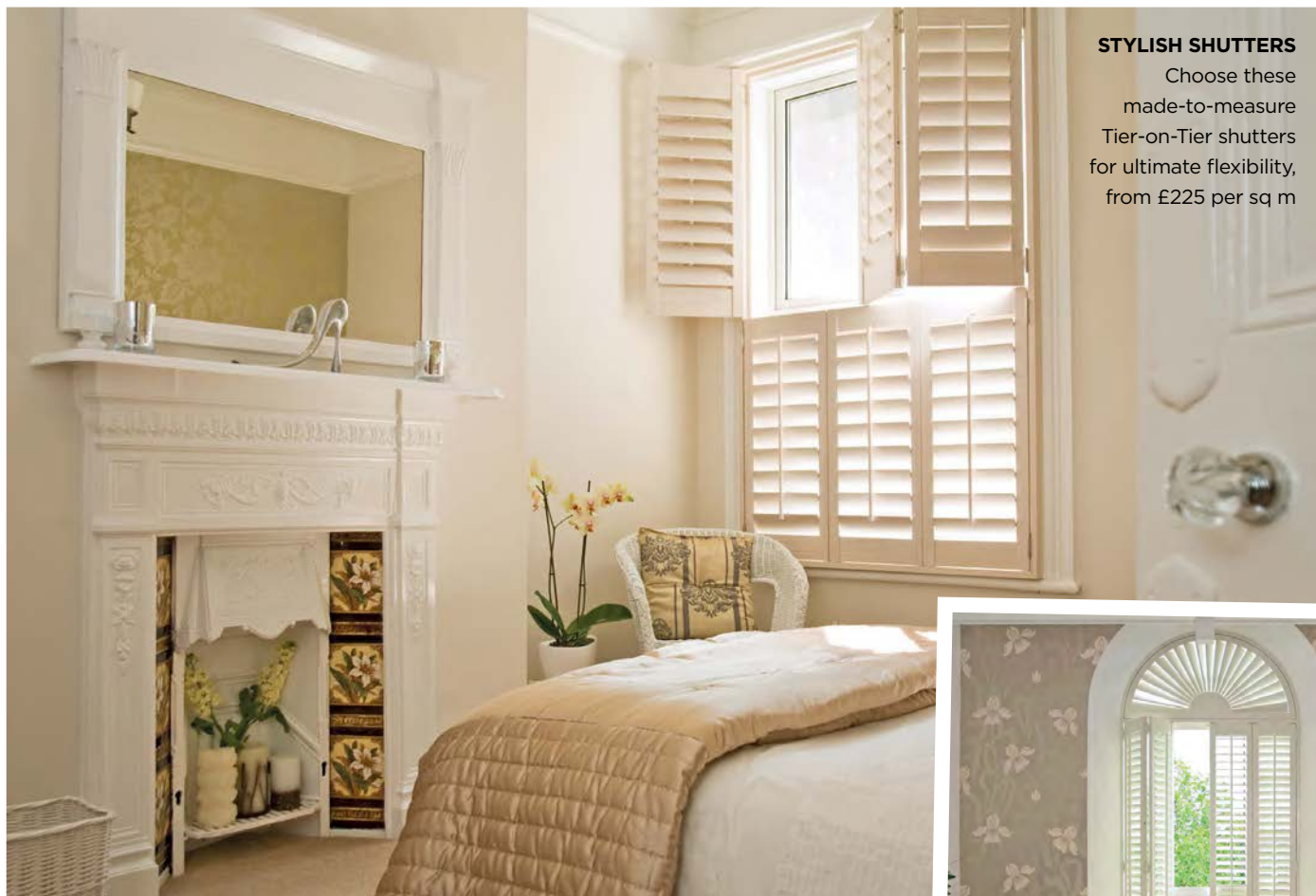
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*Appeal Home Shading is offering Good Homes readers the chance to transform their home with handcrafted shutters in a choice of colours worth up to £2,000*



## STYLISH SHUTTERS

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## MODERN ELEGANCE

Make a statement with these full-length arch-top shutters

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window shutter is expertly created to perfectly complement your window style and shape. A local design consultant will even visit you at home to offer advice and recommend the product that best suits your needs and your interior scheme.

The range of shutters is available in a large choice of colours and finishes and can be custom coloured to match your exact requirements and tastes. And if you're looking for a beautiful bathroom, Appeal also makes shutters with ABS plastic, which makes the shutter water resistant.

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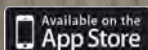


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# Update your BATHROOM RADIATOR

From traditional to modern, the latest models can transform the look of your space, keeping it warm and dry

Picking the right heat source will make all the difference to the look and feel of your bathroom.

Whether you opt for a full-size radiator or a designer towel warmer, there are hundreds of options and styles to choose from. Full-power radiators are available in a wide range of designs, from classic Victorian to cutting-edge sculptural pieces. Tall designer radiators are especially popular and give a large blank wall a central focus away from the bath suite. Shiny chrome or stainless-steel rails suit most contemporary bathrooms, while white towel ones work better in a traditional setting.

Your choice of radiator will greatly depend on the size of the bathroom. A simple towel warmer should be enough to heat a tiny room, but a big space may require a combination of heat sources. To work out the power (measured in BTU or watts) of radiator you need for the size of the room, ask your plumber or search online for a simple BTU calculator. Input a few details – dimensions, number of windows etc, – and it will give you a figure instantly.

If you already have a central heating radiator in the bathroom, you should only need a relatively low-powered towel warmer, with prices from £80. You could also consider an electric or dual-fuel design, so you can keep towels warm even in summer when the main heating isn't needed.

It is also important to consider how much wall space is available in your bathroom. A full-size towel radiator that can heat a large room will need most of a wall for itself. Smaller rails can be wall-mounted at waist height, leaving space below for storage, while narrow rails can utilise otherwise wasted space, or slot in behind the door.



## LUXURY STYLE

The LG036 1310 BTU

Regency steel towel

rail (H82xW50cm),

from £1,400, Vogue UK



## FLOOR STANDING

For an elegant look, choose the Arcadia 1498 BTU radiator (H85xW60x D23.5cm), Albion Bath Company

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

■ **Steel radiators** These heat quicker compared to traditional cast iron, but cool down faster. Modern aluminium radiators heat fastest and require less water, making them energy efficient.

■ **Glass designs** Becoming popular, they work with electricity and can be printed with images for a bespoke finish.

■ **Chrome or high gloss** This type of radiator looks good, but doesn't conduct heat as well as white and matt designs.

■ **There's strength in numbers** Two separate single radiators are actually more efficient than one double.

■ **Heat output** Most radiator companies will have a BTU/watts calculator on their website. Ideally you want to choose a radiator that has an output that is just above the heat-loss value.

*If space is tight, look for a multipurpose radiator with built-in storage. Shelf designs are increasingly popular, providing extra space for spare towels*



## Under £250



### BUILD YOUR OWN

The Grace 4 Column cast-iron radiator from Castrads can be supplied in 22 finishes – shown in Farrow & Ball's green smoke – and costs £20.40 per section, so you can build the exact size you need.

- 1,957 BTU/574 watts
- H45xW47.5xD17.5cm



### CLEAN LINES

If you are after the perfect modern finish, then look no further. The Blade from Victoria Plumb is sleek, low profile and superb value for money.

- Chrome-plated steel
- 1,273 BTU/373 watts
- H180xW40cm



### DESIGNER LOOK

Small but stylish, the Finesse towel radiator from Hudson Reed looks every inch the designer buy, just without the price tag, and it has a 20-year guarantee.

- Chrome-plated steel
- 908 BTU
- H61xW50cm

*Make a statement with a bold design or a coloured model*

## £250-£300



### TRADITIONAL FINISH

Considering its size, the Etiquette classic panel radiator in pure white from Wickes is very powerful and will heat the room and dry towels with ease.

- Coated steel
- Wall or floor mounted
- 2,466 BTU
- H151xW51cm



### SMALL AND MIGHTY

With its striking angular design, the Kudox Kube vertical radiator from B&Q is bold enough to make a statement, but compact enough not to dominate a smaller bathroom.

- Chrome-effect steel
- 1,365 BTU/400 watts
- H120xW40cm



### GREAT STORAGE

Handy for a busy household, the curved Carina from Vogue is available in white or chrome and has lots of hanging space to dry towels, and a top rack for storing fresh towels (and keeping them warm).

- Dual-fuel or electric
- From 762-1,262 BTU
- H120xW50cm





£350-£400

FROM  
£355

GREAT  
VALUE

### MIRRORED FINISH

Space saving and stunning, the elegant-but-powerful Geneva design from Frontline Bathrooms features a full length mirror and is available in white, £355, or anthracite, £395.

- 2043 BTU
- H180xW42cm



£399

### SPACE SAVER

Make the most of your space with the Quirinius from Heritage Bathrooms, which has hanging space and a shelf - ideal if you don't have a linen cupboard.

- Chrome-plated brass
- 563 BTU/162 watts
- H43.1xW68cm

## Underfloor heating

The latest systems offer affordable, energy-efficient heat and cosy feet. There are two options available:

### HOT WATER (WET)

Hot water from the central heating is pumped through plastic pipes buried in a sub floor. The system is extremely efficient; it can reduce heating costs and be powered by solar panels, but is disruptive to install and can be slow to heat up compared to radiators.

Try companies such as Nu-Heat, Robbins Systems and Thermo-Floor.

### ELECTRIC (WIRE)

Warmth is generated from wire heating elements that are laid in coils or on special mats. The wire cables are connected to the mains and a thermostat. This is quicker to install than wet UFH, heats faster, can be retrofitted without the need for a whole new floor, but it is more expensive to run. Try companies such as Allbrite UK, Devi and Warmup.

£550- £750



CHOICE OF  
COLOURS

£660

### ECO FRIENDLY

Available in a palette of more than 200 colours, the Blok recycled aluminium radiator (shown in coral) from Bisque uses less energy to heat up and is fast to respond to changes in room temperature.

- From 3,079 BTU
- H59xW70cm



FROM  
£611

### STEEL STYLE

The 50cm-wide Stratos stainless-steel radiator from The Radiator Company is available in 75cm, 120cm (shown) and 150cm heights and offers an asymmetrical take on the classic towel warmer.

- 1096 BTU/321 watts
- H120xW50xD10.5cm



£720

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### PRACTICAL POWER

Powerful and elegant, the Alu-Zen from MHS is a curved aluminium radiator available in a range of colours. Plus, it has a choice of four towel bars for extra practicality.

- Rails from £108 each
- 4,500 BTU/1,319 watts
- H180xW37.5cm



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# Adding more space WITH AN EXTENSION

*Take advantage of relaxed planning rules by extending to create more room for work, rest and play*



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EXTENSION 1

# 'IT'S A MIX OF MODERN AND TRADITIONAL'

*By adding a glass-box extension to the back of their Victorian terrace, Kate Thornton and Dominic Grainger have created a stunning open-plan space on two levels*



## ← SOFT GREYS

Parquet flooring creates a continual flow in the open-plan living room, which gives a cohesive feel. The walls are painted in lamp room gray by Farrow & Ball. The Lotus armchairs in silver grey are from Made.com and the glass table was from the couple's old house

## → GREAT VIEW

The kitchen sits in the existing part of the house and makes use of the large bay window; the units and the stools are from Daulby & Tickle

BEFORE



AFTER



## EXTENSION DETAILS

### HOMEOWNERS

Kate Thornton, partner at Magentapink Interiors, and Dominic Grainger, CEO of a media company

**AGES** Both 49

### FAMILY

Two boys, age 15 and 18

### LOCATION

Fulham, London

### PROPERTY

Six-bedroom Victorian end-of-terrace house

### COST OF

### NEW EXTENSION

**Flooring** £2,300

**Architect fees** £32,655

**Glass box** £140,000

**Structural engineer** £10,000

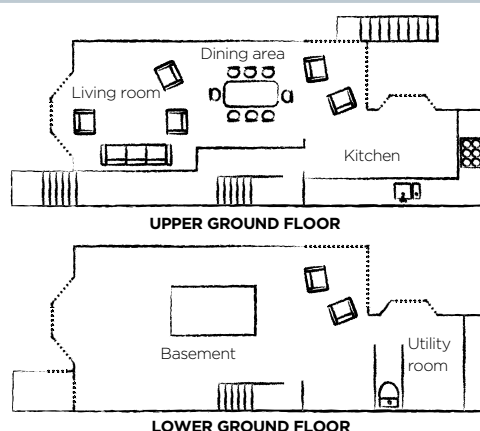
**TOTAL** £184,955





## → VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

On the ground floor is a light and airy open-plan kitchen, living and dining room. Coming off the dining area is a balcony with stairs leading down to the garden. The basement, which is mainly a games/TV room but also houses a utility room, has large glass doors that also open out onto the back garden



## PROJECT BRIEF

**To add a two-storey glass-box extension to this London townhouse. This involved remodelling the upper- and lower-ground floors to make open-plan spaces that feel much bigger**

Kate Thornton and Dominic Grainger moved in to their Victorian end-of-terrace house in 2001 having lived about a quarter of a mile away previously. 'We were after a project, and something we could put our stamp on. I didn't want a done-up property,' explains Kate. The house hadn't been updated since the 1980s and was in need of complete refurbishment, which included heating, electrics and a damp course. The family lived in the property for about six months prior to discussions with an architect, so they could get a feel for what they wanted and how best to use the space. 'We decided to extend, as we wanted to connect the kitchen to the living room to make the space open plan, and therefore easier for us to be together as a family,' explains Kate.

As the house is an end-of-terrace, it gave the couple instant space that could be utilised. Kate wanted the rooms to be light, airy and modern and had heard that architect Giles Pike had done a lot of work with glass boxes, so he seemed the best person to approach. 'Our brief to Giles was to create an open-plan upper ▶





#### ↑ MIX & MATCH

The shape of the pendant light creates a beautiful curve against the angular shape of the kitchen units

#### → CHILL ZONE

In the basement, Kate teamed the dark grey walls with a pair of old leather chairs bought from an auction

ground area to incorporate the kitchen/dining and living spaces,' says Kate. 'We wanted a larger living area in the basement to include our home cinema, plus a utility room and spare WC, with both areas to have access to the garden. There was an existing roof terrace but the access was tricky, so that was added to the project and solved with a double-height oriel window.'

The couple decided on a double-height glass box with access to the garden on two levels. They applied for planning permission and it went through first time. On the recommendation of Giles, the pair used Miles Builders and two specialists for wooden and parquet floors. Upton Wood supplied the tumbled wooden floor in the basement, and AH Peck reconditioned and extended the parquet floor on the upper ground level. Work started in the September 2012 and did go very smoothly, taking about nine months, though there was a slight overrun as the couple adding things to the project. 'We had a budget, and the cost of the actual glass extension did come in right, but the steel balcony and stairs went a bit over. The timing did overrun due to the expansion of the scheme - we ended up doing some renovation on other parts of the house,' says Kate.

As the build was in its last stages, Kate set about choosing the interior style - made a lot easier due to her work as an interior designer. 'I had so many ideas and contacts for materials,' she explains. 'I knew that I wanted wood in the basement and chose dark oak as it was aged and tumbled to create an old effect. We re-used and added to the parquet flooring on the upper



ground floor. I chose the patterned tiles for the kitchen, as I wanted to create a focal point as well as introduce pattern to this space,' she adds. Kate loves bold and dark colours, so opted for a dark grey on the walls with a bright white ceiling as a contrast. Upstairs the upper ground is slightly lighter, 'there is so much light coming through the glass that I didn't want to detract from that,' says Kate, 'but we felt that a darkish grey and dark blue would still work well and used them in the hall and landings. I've used cushions and throws to add splashes of colour and to make the look more homely.'

### SHOPPING LIST

**FURNITURE** Chesterfield sofa, Old Boot. The Long Island sofa, £3,000, Sofa.com. Armchairs are covered in Romo fabric. Glass dining table and chairs, Cattelan Italia **FLOORING** Aged oak, Upton Wood Flooring. Parquet flooring, AH Peck Flooring **DOORS AND GLASS** Glass L2i **KITCHEN** Daulby & Tickle **LIGHTING** Hector Finch pendant, for similar try ONOS range; retro floor lamp, for similar try the Brooklyn; both Made.com **TILES** For similar, try Fired Earth **PAINT** Lamp room gray, £34.50 per 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball **RUG** Louis de Poortere

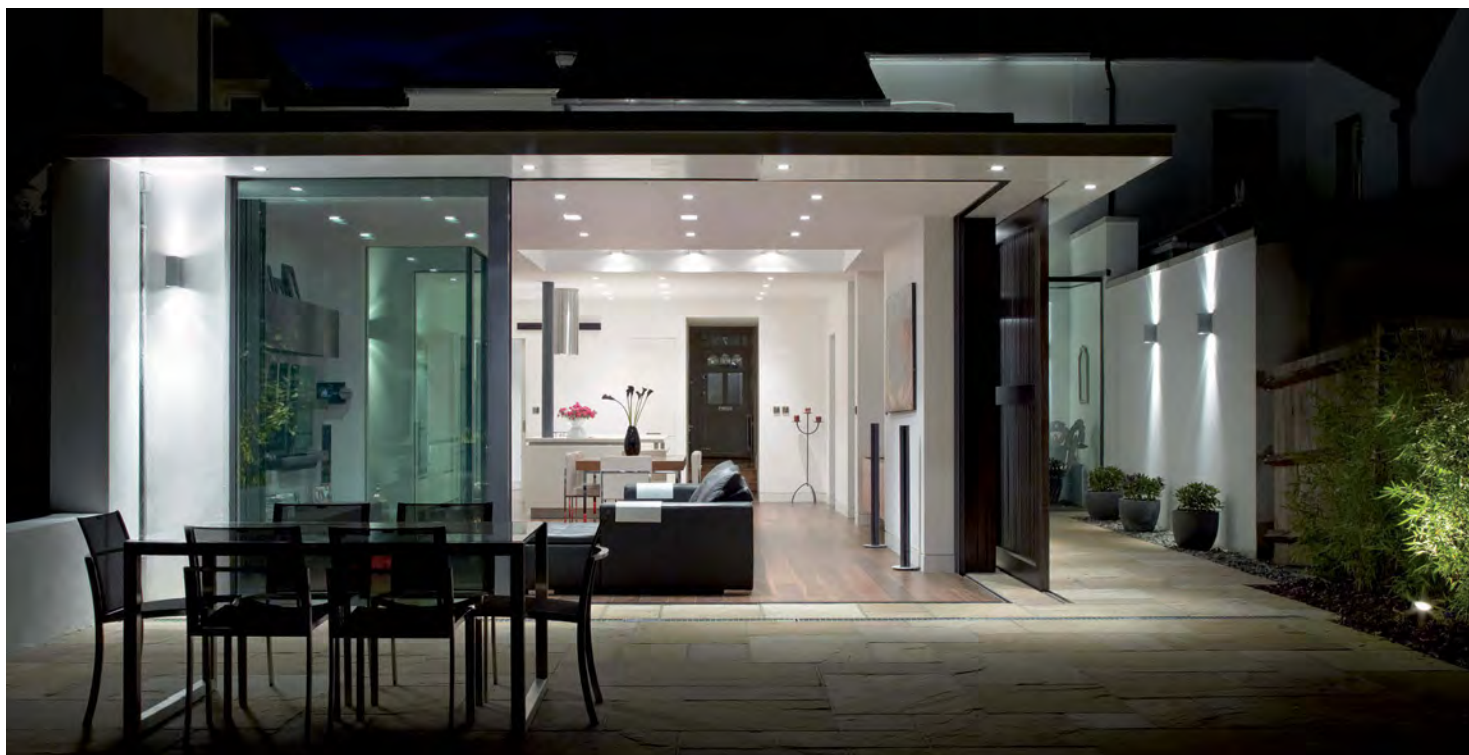
### Things we love

■ **The sleek convection hob** in the kitchen is a real godsend; we are a busy family and it is so easy to clean.

■ **Extra space in the basement**, which is mainly for the boys to play in, but is also used as a communal TV room.

■ **Our super squishy** the Long Island three-seater sofa in crushed velvet from Sofa.com. It lives in the basement and it's so huge and extremely comfortable.





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## EXTENSION DETAILS

### HOMEOWNERS

Philippa Matthews, an inner city GP, and husband Deenan Pillay, a professor of virology

### AGES

54 & 57

### FAMILY

Son, 25, and a daughter, 23

### LOCATION

North London

### PROPERTY

Four-bedroom Edwardian semi-detached house in a conservation area

### ARCHITECT

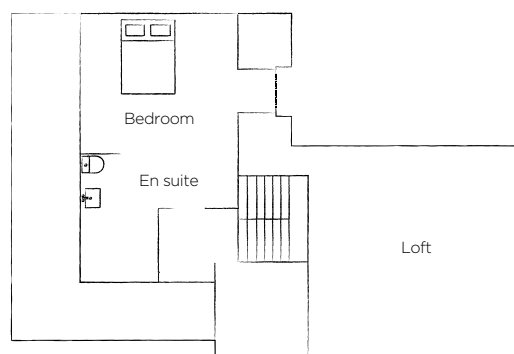
Sanya Polescuk of Sanya Polescuk Architects, who worked closely with the family to create an inventive bedroom in the loft

### TOTAL COST

OF EXTENSION **£76,000**

### ↓ VIEW THE FLOORPLAN

The neat wooden staircase leads in to a double bedroom and adjoining wet room, separated by a glass screen. There is also access to the loft



### PROJECT BRIEF

To gain more living space in this Thirties semi by extending into the loft space and adding a much-needed bedroom and en suite

## EXTENSION 2

# ‘WE UNLOCKED ITS POTENTIAL’

*Philippa Matthews and Deenan Pillay reconfigured the space of their family home with a clever loft conversion*



### ↑ TWISTS AND TURNS

A simple ply staircase unlocks the potential of the loft and enables the head space in the new bedroom to be habitable and airy

### → WASH AND GO

Not only did the architect create a decent-sized bedroom, but she managed to squeeze in a wet room that's divided by a simple glass screen







## GOOD CHOICE

'The ingenious curved staircase design from Sanya Polescuk Architects enabled us to put a decent-sized bedroom in the loft, despite the conservation area restrictions,' says Philippa

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## ← INVENTIVE DESIGN IDEA

In the converted loft room, the exposed brickwork contrasts perfectly against the smooth painted wall behind the bed. Dark wood aspects create a further dimension with the visible beams kept to add a sense of tradition to the space

With two growing teenagers and a move to London from Birmingham, Philippa Matthews and husband Deenan Pillay were looking for a new home. Coincidentally, Deenan's mother wanted to downsize, so the couple bought the house from her. Situated in a conservation area of Muswell Hill, the location was perfect but the layout wasn't ideal for the family and they wanted to convert the loft so one of the existing bedrooms could become a home office.

Philippa and Deenan contacted Sanya Polescuk from Sanya Polescuk Architects - a local firm - who came up with a design to unlock the potential of using the loft. As the house is in a conservation area, the use of dormers was not permitted. In addition, due to the angle of the roof, there was not adequate head space in the front section of the loft over the main

bay window. A suitable solution needed to be found, as this only left a small section towards the rear of the house usable for converting. Sanya decided to design a staircase to be squeezed into the roof apex, resulting in a quirky upwardly folding structure; this meant that there would be enough headroom at the top of the stairs. Constructed off site, this ingenious staircase was the first job to be completed to allow the site team early access to the rest of the space, as a new heating and hot-water system was also installed to release the loft space in the first place. Made of plywood, the staircase offered a cost-effective way to keep down costs, while still solving the problem of the conversion. A new stressed ply floor structure was then hung from beams that propped up the existing roof purlins, which were stuffed with insulation and brushed with fire-retardant varnish to enclose the new habitable space. To the right of the bedroom area sits an en-suite wet room. The layout uses every single inch of space to the maximum.

## SHOPPING LIST

**PAINT** For similar to Philippa's bedroom walls, try mint macaroon matt emulsion, £21.29 per 2.5ltr, Dulux  
**BEDROOM FURNITURE** For a similar bed, try Marshall double bed frame, £214.99, by Home Zone at Wayfair  
**BATHROOM FITTINGS** Bathstore  
**BATH TILES** Criterion Tiles  
**ROOF WINDOWS** Velux

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH PHOTOGRAPHS MEL YATES



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# Invest in the PERFECT SOFA

Whether you're furnishing a new extension or replacing an old favourite, it is worth taking the time to choose the right style for your space

Choosing a new sofa comes with making lots of decisions, not just in terms of how much you spend, but how well it will work for you, your home and your lifestyle. This all-important piece of furniture is likely to still be with you in 10 years time, so it's worth thinking about it properly now. Start by figuring out what size you need. Obviously you don't want something that totally dominates the room or is swallowed up by its surroundings, so plot out your ideal size by sticking down a masking-tape outline on the floor where it will go. Remember, the design of the sofa will also come into play here – the narrower the arms, the more seating space between them, which impacts on how big the overall sofa needs to be. Size is also important for delivery; if you have narrow doors and hallways you need to be sure it can fit through. Most companies will advise you on measuring for this and some have models that can be brought into the house in pieces and then assembled, so are guaranteed to fit.

If you want a more formal-looking sofa, go for a high-backed model or one with feet; and for a more relaxed look, low-backed designs with covered feet work best. Colour is entirely down to taste, but do keep in mind that pattern will make a centrepiece of your sofa, whereas a plain one is easier to fit into a variety of schemes as you change your decor over the years. When it comes to material, leather is great for durability, but it does limit your colour choice and is a bigger investment. If you're set on a fabric sofa, cotton or linen are good options, and wool is very durable.



## VERSATILE STYLE

Leon from Sofa.com comes in more than 100 fabrics; shown in shell brushed linen cotton, from £1,560

## DESIGN CLASSIC

For a luxury feel, choose the Darcy sofa from Arlo & Jacob in mulberry velvet. It is handmade with a hardwood frame and solid-beech feet



## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

■ **Frame** If you buy a sofa with a soft-wood frame, such as pine, don't expect it to last more than about five years. There are plenty of models on the market made from oak, ash or beech, which will all go the distance – ensure that the wood has come from a sustainable source.

■ **Construction** Ask about how your sofa was put together before you buy. Strong frames are built with wooden dowels or metal screws and brackets. Steer clear of anything held together with glue and staples, as it won't last as long.

■ **Filling** The two most common fillings for sofas are foam or fibre. Both are perfectly good options; foam retains its shape, is supportive and has a tailored look, while fibre is softer, moulds to the contours of the body and has a more relaxed appearance.

*Look for models that come with removable covers – not only are they easy to wash, but they are also easy to replace if you change your living-room scheme*



## Under £1,000



£295

### GREAT VALUE

Ikea's Ektorp sofa has reversible back cushions and removable machine-washable covers – there is a whole host of alternative cover designs available, too. Shown here in mobacka beige and red, at this price, you can change the covers with the seasons.

- Foam and fibre filling
- H88xW179xD88cm



ANGULAR  
DESIGN

£875

### AUTUMN SHADES

A neat little sofa with a wealth of fabric options, the Stamford from Next Home also has a choice of two different woods for the feet. If you want to give it some character, choose a bold cover like this tweedy weave ginger, which comes with a useful stain guard.

- Foam and fibre filling
- H95xW192xD102cm



£893

### MID-CENTURY MODERN

The solid-oak frame Bermondsey sofa from Sofas & Stuff's new Can't Wait collection has a gentle mid-century Scandinavian look about it and is available in a choice of different fabrics, including Knebworth light grey (shown). It also comes with a lifetime guarantee.

- Foam filling
- H78xW215xD86cm

## £1,000-£1,300

*If you love neutrals but have a family, look for sofas with a stain guard*



£1,295

### LUXURIOUS LEATHER

This is a great price for a leather sofa and the worn appearance gives it a really classic lived-in look. Shown here in vintage cocoa leather, the Newton three-seater sofa from Couch is also available in vintage chestnut leather and comes with a five-year guarantee. Polished hardwood feet give it a high-end finish.

- Foam in fibre casing
- H91xW219xD100cm



VERSATILE  
DESIGN

£1,095

### TIMELESS STYLE

For a versatile design that would work well in both a modern and traditional interior, choose the Aura sofa by Collins & Hayes at Furniture Village. Two box arm cushions at each end offer extra support and it will seat four people comfortably, which makes it a great option for a family sofa.

- Foam and fibre filling
- H90xW247xD98cm



£1,200

### ETHICAL CREDENTIALS

The Walton II from John Lewis is plump, comfortable and very inviting. Handmade with ethically-sourced materials, it has a hardwood frame and its feet are removable if you prefer it to be flush with the floor. You can order a free swatch of fabric to see if it will work in your scheme; shown in Elena putty.

- Feather and fibre filling
- H87xW172xD103cm



£1,300-£1,500

EDITOR'S  
CHOICE

### Choosing a sofa bed

#### IS IT WORTH THE EXTRA COST?

If you're not sure whether you want a sofa bed or just an extra sofa, you could always choose a sofa design you like and then check if it's also available as a sofa bed. It does cost more, but can be invaluable for extra guests at busy times such as Christmas and New Year.

#### CHECK THE MATTRESS SIZE

Pay close attention to the width of your sofa-bed's mattress. There's no hard-and-fast rule with these, unlike when you buy a normal mattress, so even if the sofa is huge, the bed may still only accommodate one person.

**TRY BEFORE YOU BUY** Visit the showroom before you buy a sofa bed – lie down on it to test how comfortable it is, figure out how many people it sleeps and make sure you find it easy to operate.

#### MIX AND MATCH

Narrow arms mean you get maximum seating for your money with the elegant Osaka sofa in burgundy (also available in black, light grey or leather) by BoConcept. There's a good choice of leg materials, from anthracite to walnut, and they can be made to different heights.

- Foam filling
- H80xW170xD87.5cm

#### UTTER COMFORT

Sink into the Pavlova sofa from Loaf and you won't want to get up. It's available in a range of fabrics, colours and patterns, and comes with on-trend weathered oak legs. Handmade in Derbyshire with a solid-beech frame, it also comes with a five-year guarantee. Shown in dew wool.

- Feather-wrapped foam filling
- H86xW179xD104cm

Over £1,500

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#### CRAFTED BY HAND

A traditionally handmade sofa is the ultimate in luxury – the Nineteen 22 sofa from Rume comes in fitted or loose covers. It is handmade using traditional techniques and it has a solid-beech frame and solid-oak legs. Choose from fabric or leather upholstery, and there's also a matching stool available.

- Duck feather and fibre filling
- H84xW160xD103cm

#### MAKE A STATEMENT

With its solid seasoned-beech frame, the Ellis from Content by Conran is a good, sturdy sofa. Its sharp modern shape with clean lines is ideal for a contemporary scheme and you can be as bold or subtle as you like, with colours from yellow to cream available. Stainless-steel legs give a smart look. Shown in Launceston apple.

- Duck feather filling
- H65xW170xD94cm

#### FALL FOR FLORALS

This bold little sofa from Sofa Workshop is aptly named Miss Firefly and is a great piece for adding interest to a smaller room. Shown here in VN Sarawak pear, it's also available in plain fabrics. The frame has a 10-year guarantee and it can be made with removable arms to ensure it fits through your door.

- Feather filling
- H90xW156xD102cm



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*This realistic-looking gingerbread house looks like it's home-baked*

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### CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

*Delectable little ornaments that will last year after year*

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## RED METAL CHRISTMAS JUG

*Brighten up your festive dining table with this contemporary serving jug*

This metal pitcher is ideal for serving water, juice or festive drinks. It is made from a vintage-look enamelled metal, which is a nice mix of traditional Christmas colourings and the rustic trend. You can even use it as a vase to display seasonal flowers and foliage on your dining table. £8 (H20cm)

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# *Entertaining for* FAMILY & FRIENDS

*Create an extra-special lunch or dinner this  
New Year with our pick of delicious recipes*



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**12 fine green beans**  
**250g fresh or canned crab meat, drained**  
**2 tsp Thai red curry paste**  
**2 tbsp good-quality mayonnaise**  
**2 tbsp freshly chopped coriander**  
**4 tbsp fresh white breadcrumbs**  
**2 tbsp groundnut oil**  
**Thai chilli dipping sauce**

**1** Bring a pan of water to the boil and add the green beans. Cook for 1 minute, drain well and cool quickly under cold running water. Chop finely.  
**2** Mix the beans, crab meat, curry paste, mayonnaise and coriander in a bowl.  
**3** Stir in half the breadcrumbs. Take some of the mixture and shape into a ball a little bigger than an apricot. Roll in the remaining breadcrumbs. Freeze for 10 minutes if you have time.  
**4** Heat the oil in a pan and fry cakes gently for 1-2 minutes until golden brown. Serve with Thai dipping sauce.





## Roast pumpkin soup with cheese straws

Too nice to save just for Halloween, this rich soup is fragrant with the soft spiciness of coriander, cumin and ginger. Top with a dash of crème fraîche

**PREP 40 MINS • COOK 1 HOUR 10 MINS**

### **SERVES 6-8**

**2kg pumpkin or butternut squash**

**4 tbsp olive oil**

**Salt and ground black pepper**

**2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped**

**1 onion, roughly chopped**

**1 tsp ground coriander**

**1 tsp ground cumin**

**½ tsp chilli flakes**

**2.5cm fresh root ginger, chopped**

**1 litre hot vegetable stock**

### **FOR THE CHEESE STRAWS**

**500g packet puff pastry**

**A little plain flour**

**50g each Parmesan and Gruyère, grated**

### **TO SERVE**

**4 tbsp crème fraîche**

**1-2 tbsp toasted pumpkin seeds**

**Thyme sprigs**

**1** Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan oven/gas mark 6. Peel the pumpkin, remove the seeds and chop roughly. Put in a roasting tin, drizzle with 2 tbsp of oil and season well. Roast for 20 minutes.

**2** Add the garlic, onion, spices, ginger and remaining 2 tbsp oil, and mix together. Continue to roast for another 20-25 minutes. Set aside to cool a little.

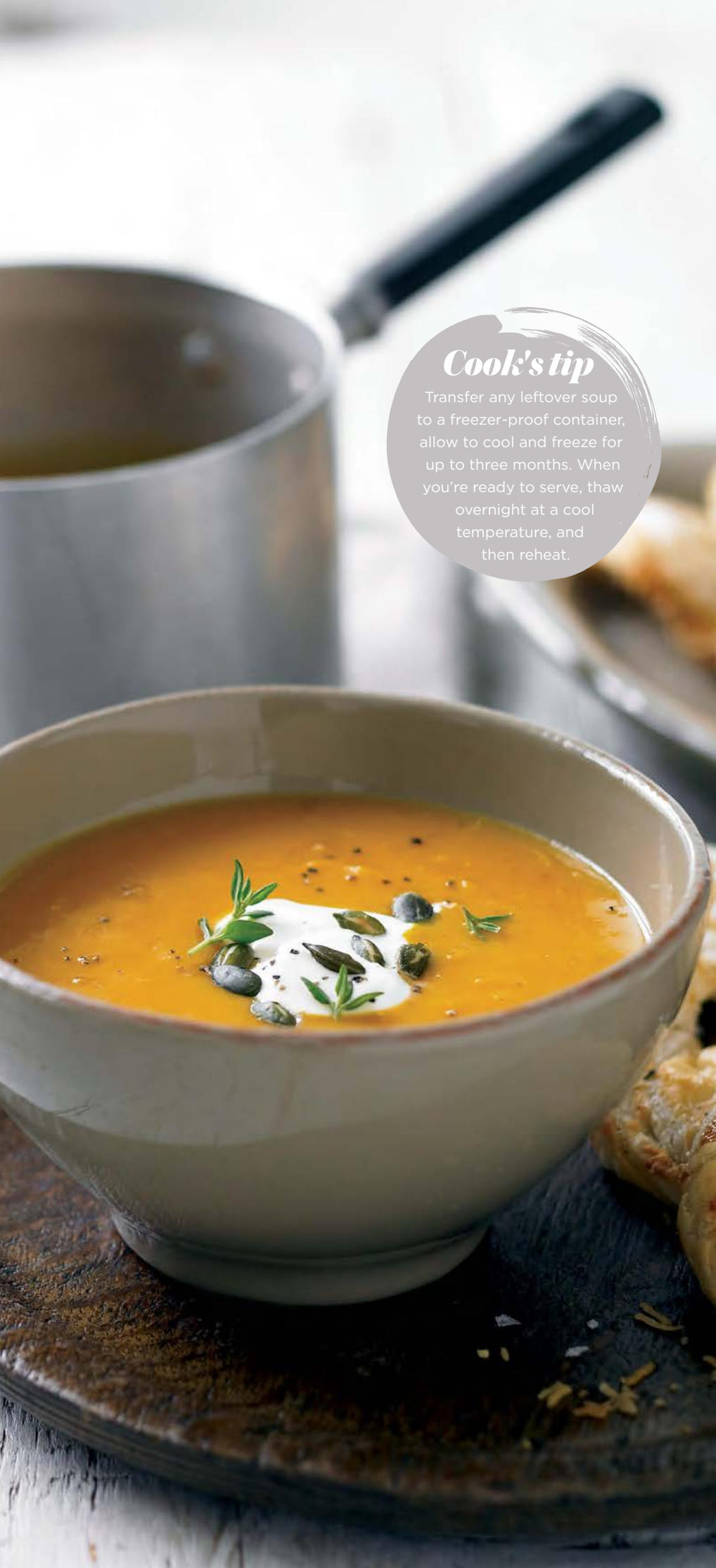
**3** Roll the pastry out on a clean, lightly floured surface until you have a large rectangle and sprinkle with the cheese. Fold each side in like a book, then roll out again to press the cheese into the pastry. Cut into 1cm strips and twist them like barley sugar. Chill for 10 minutes. Bake on a baking sheet for 10-15 minutes until golden. Cool on a wire rack.

**4** Finish making the soup. Whizz the vegetables and stock together, in batches, until smooth. Return to the pan, reheat gently and taste for seasoning.

**5** Ladle among the bowls and top with crème fraîche, pumpkin seeds and thyme. Serve with the cheese straws.

### ***Cook's tip***

Transfer any leftover soup to a freezer-proof container, allow to cool and freeze for up to three months. When you're ready to serve, thaw overnight at a cool temperature, and then reheat.







## Lamb boulangère

This is a classic, easy way to serve lamb. The name comes from an old French village tradition in the days before people had ovens, where they'd take their roasts to the local bakery to cook them in theirs after the loaves were done. It produces its own wonderful juices, but if you want to serve it with gravy, see the Cook's tip below

**PREP 20 MINS • COOK 2 HOURS**

**SERVES 6-8**

**3 ½-4kg leg of lamb**

**A few sprigs of rosemary**

**2 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced**

**Salt and ground black pepper**

**2 tbsp olive oil**

**Knob of butter**

**1 large onion, sliced**

**900g small potatoes, just scrubbed  
or peeled if you wish**

**300ml beef or lamb stock**

**1** Preheat the oven to 170°C/150°C fan oven/gas mark 3. Put the leg of lamb on a board and, using a sharp knife at a slight angle, puncture it all over. Push a small sprig of rosemary and slice of garlic into each puncture point. Season well.

**2** Heat the oil and butter in a large pan and cook the onion quickly, along with any remaining garlic, until just softened. Transfer to a roasting tin with the potatoes, seasoning and a few more sprigs of rosemary.

**3** Lay the lamb on top and then pour over the stock, cover with foil and cook for about 2 hours, basting occasionally. If you like, you can remove the cover for the last 15 minutes, which will crisp up the meat and potatoes.

**4** Slice the lamb and serve with the potatoes and steamed vegetables.

### ***Wine note***

*A South African Cabernet  
Sauvignon/Merlot or  
Bordeaux Cru Bourgeois  
will balance the lamb*







## Pan-fried guinea fowl with mushroom and Madeira sauce

Guinea fowl is a robustly flavoured bird that has a delicate, almost sweet taste and lends itself to being paired with fruity flavours. Cook it on the bone in pieces for a really tender, moist result, and serve with buttered cabbage

PREP 10 MINS • COOK 30 MINS

### SERVES 4

**30g plain flour**

**Salt and ground black pepper**

**1 guinea fowl**

**2-3 tbsp sunflower oil**

**2 red onions, sliced**

**3-4 garlic cloves, crushed**

**250g mixed wild mushrooms**

**(or use 100g dried porcini soaked in the hot stock as directed)**

**450ml hot chicken stock**

**75ml Madeira wine**

- 1 Place the flour in a shallow bowl and add seasoning.
- 2 Joint the guinea fowl into 6-8 portions: wing, leg (which can be divided into thigh and drumstick, if large enough) and breast (which can also be cut into two).
- 3 Heat the oil in a sauté pan with a lid, and fry the onions and garlic until

softened. Set aside on a plate, then fry off the portions of guinea fowl, skin-side down first, until nicely golden all over.

4 Return the onions to the pan along with the mushrooms and stock, and stir gently while heating through. When the liquid is just beginning to bubble, cover the pan and leave it to simmer gently for 15-20 minutes, or until the guinea fowl is tender. Stir occasionally to avoid any of the meat or sauce sticking to the pan or burning.

5 Add the Madeira wine and bring to a bubble again, stirring occasionally.

Transfer the guinea fowl portions to a heated serving dish and cover with foil. Give the sauce a final heat through, stirring well, and check the seasoning.

6 Divide the mushrooms between four heated plates, place the guinea fowl portions on top and spoon over a little of the sauce, strained if you like.

### Cook's tip

To make gravy, heat the meat juices, a small glass of red wine and a spoonful of redcurrant jelly in a saucepan. Bring to the boil and simmer. Mix 1 tsp cornflour with 2 tbsp cold water and stir in. Simmer until syrupy.





## Ginger and apricot ripple ice cream

**No need for any special ice-cream kit with this recipe – all it takes is a couple of bowls and an electric hand whisk (or a balloon whisk and plenty of elbow grease) to whip the air into the cream and egg whites, and then fold everything together**

**PREP 10 MINS**

### **SERVES 6-8**

**3 medium eggs, separated**

**250g golden caster sugar**

**1 tbsp ground ginger**

**1 tsp vanilla extract**

**600ml double cream**

**4 balls stem ginger in syrup,**

**drained and finely chopped**

**2 tbsp ginger syrup from the jar**

**4 tbsp apricot preserve**

1 Put the egg whites into a clean, grease-free bowl and whisk with an electric hand whisk until soft peaks form. Set aside.

2 Put the sugar, ginger, vanilla and egg yolks into another bowl and whisk until

thick and foamy. There's no need to wash the beaters between operations.

3 Pour the cream into another bowl and whip until just soft. Fold into the egg yolk mixture. Fold in a spoonful of the beaten egg whites and then fold in the remainder. Freeze for 2 hours in a freezer-proof dish.

4 Fold in the stem ginger and freeze again for another 1-2 hours until almost firm.

5 Stir together the ginger syrup and apricot preserve and then press through a sieve into a bowl to make a smooth sauce. Drizzle over the ice cream and use a skewer to ripple through the mixture. Freeze until solid.

6 Scoop into balls and serve with wafers.







## Easiest-ever chocolate tart

**Serve up this pudding and soak up the praise. The decoration looks professional, yet it's incredibly easy**

**PREP 25 MINS • CHILL OVERNIGHT**

**SERVES 10-12**

**FOR THE BASE**

**75g butter, melted, plus extra to grease**

**120g digestive biscuits**

**100g amaretti biscuits**

**FOR THE FILLING AND DECORATION**

**350g dark chocolate, at least 50%**

**cocoa solids, broken into pieces**

**600ml double cream**

**50g icing sugar**

**3 tbsp Amaretto liqueur**

**A little vegetable oil**

**20g flaked almonds**

**100g granulated sugar**

**1** Grease and line a 23cm springform tin with baking parchment.

**2** To make the base, whizz the biscuits in a food processor to make fine crumbs. Tip into a bowl and stir in the butter. Spoon into the tin and chill until firm.

**3** Put the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of gently simmering water so it slowly melts. Once melted, heat the cream in a pan with the icing sugar and liqueur until it just comes to the boil. Fold it into the melted chocolate until smooth. Pour on top of the biscuit base. Chill overnight.

**4** About an hour before you're ready to serve, make the caramel. Line a baking sheet with baking parchment. Brush it with oil and scatter over the almonds.

**5** Put the sugar in a heavy-based pan and place over a low heat to allow it to slowly dissolve. Continue to heat, shaking the pan every now and again so the sugar dissolves easily, until it has turned into caramel and is a dark toffee colour. Quickly pour the caramel over the almonds and ensure they're evenly covered. Allow to cool.

**6** When ready to serve, carefully lift the tart out of the tin, peeling away the paper (use a palette knife or fish slice for this bit). Transfer to a serving plate. Roughly break up the caramel into shards and arrange on top of the tart. Serve.







### *Cook's tip*

Microwaving fish keeps it wonderfully moist, so you could just put the haddock in a microwavable dish with the milk, cover with cling film, and cook on high for 3-4 minutes until it flakes easily.

## Kedgeree – the classic New Year brunch

**This is the perfect morning-after-the-night-before restorative. The rice provides energy-giving carbohydrate, while the fish and eggs are rich in protein and B vitamins. Health credentials aside, it's also great for feeding a crowd: just multiply the ingredients as required, serve on a platter and let everyone dig in**

**PREP 10 MINS • COOK 25 MINS**

### **SERVES 4**

**2 large eggs**  
**2 tbsp olive oil**  
**1 medium onion, finely chopped**  
**1 tsp mild or medium curry powder**  
**1 tsp ground turmeric**  
**200g basmati rice**  
**450ml hot chicken or vegetable stock**  
**500g smoked haddock, skinned**  
**2-3 tbsp milk**  
**25g butter**  
**Salt and ground black pepper**  
**Fresh parsley sprigs, to serve**  
**Paprika**

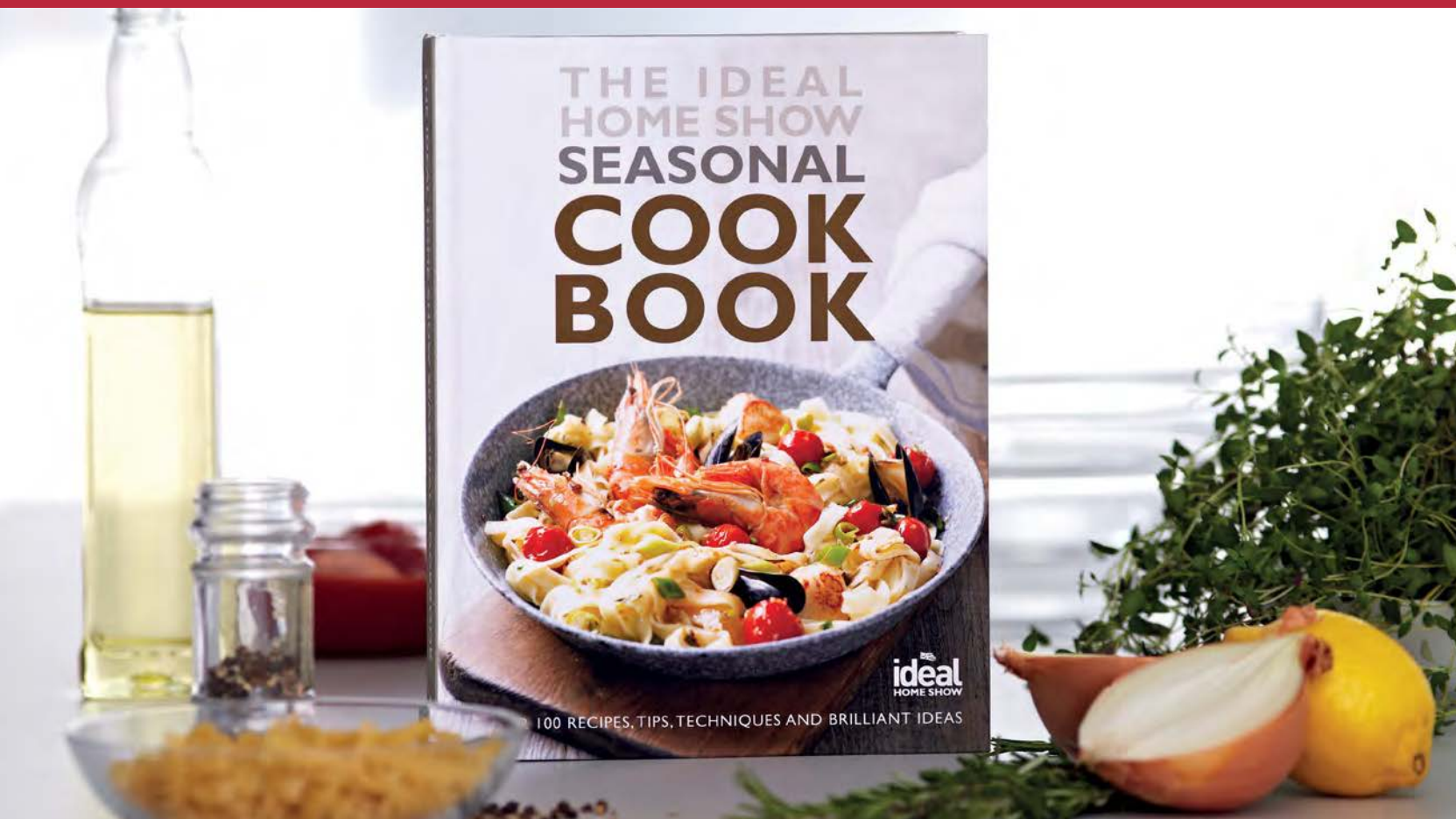
**1** Put the two large eggs in a pan of cold water. Bring to the boil and cook for 7 minutes. Place them in a bowl of cold water and set aside.  
**2** Heat the oil in a pan over a low heat and cook the onions with the spices for about 10 minutes until softened.  
**3** Stir the rice into the onion mixture to coat it in the spices and then pour in the stock. Cover with a lid and bring to a gentle boil. Turn down the heat and cook for 10-12 minutes, or according to the timing on the pack.  
**4** While the rice is cooking, put the fish

in a pan with the 2-3 tbsp milk and simmer gently until it is just cooked and separates into big chunks. Pick out any bones and stir the chunks of fish and juices into the rice mixture.  
**5** Stir the butter into the mixture and season well. Keep the pan over a medium heat so that the rice stays heated through, stirring every now and then to stop it sticking to the pan.  
**6** Peel the eggs and cut into halves or quarters. Spoon the rice mixture into a serving bowl, top with the eggs, parsley and a dusting of paprika, and serve.





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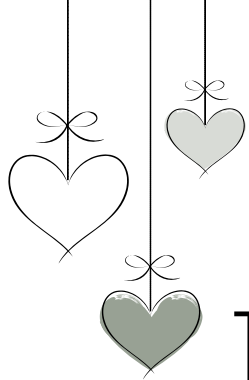
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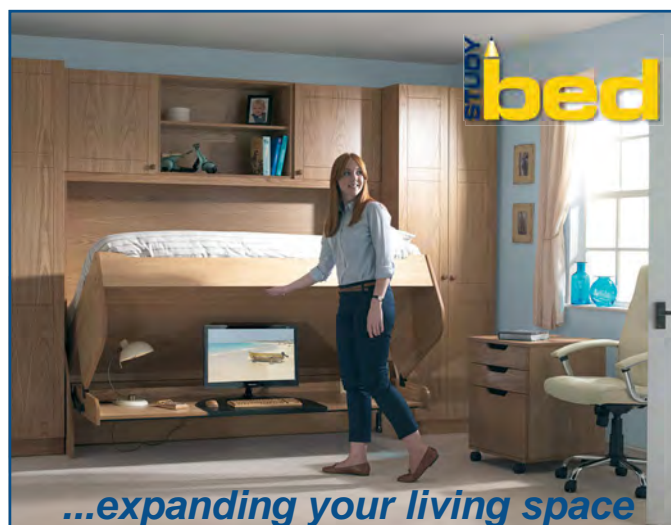
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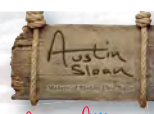


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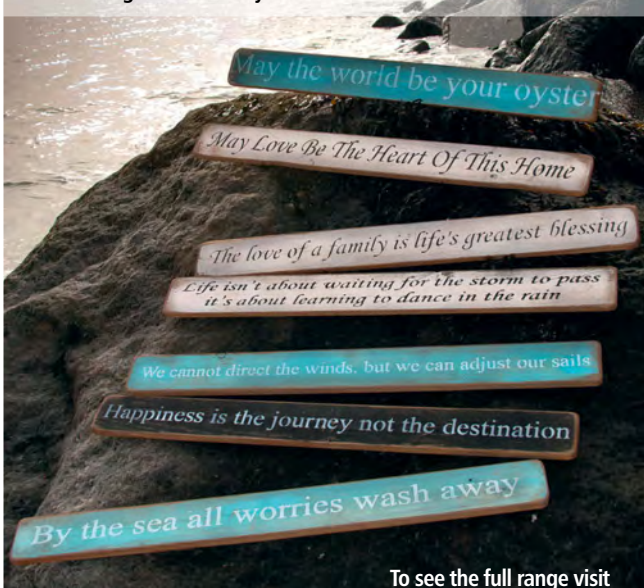
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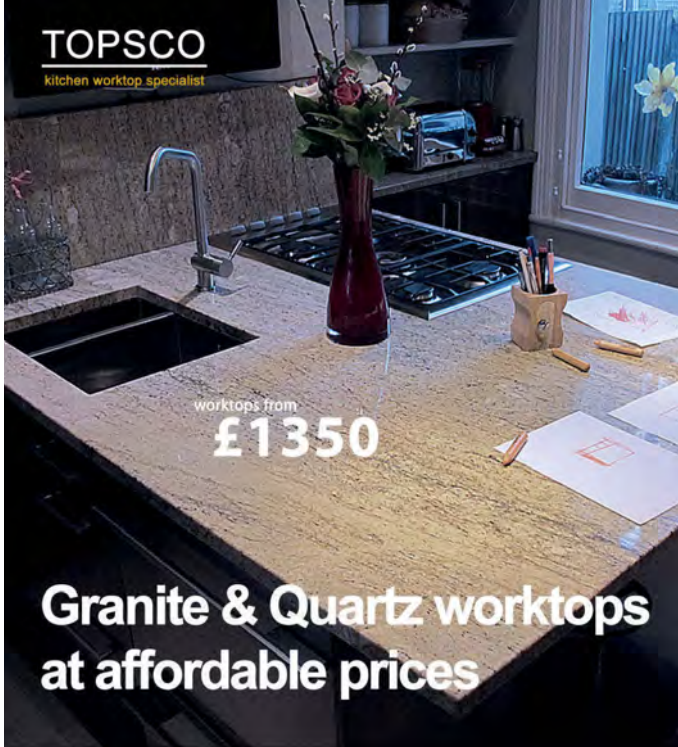
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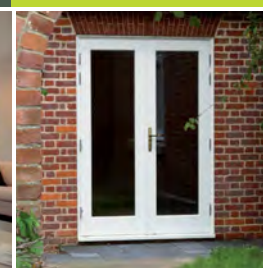
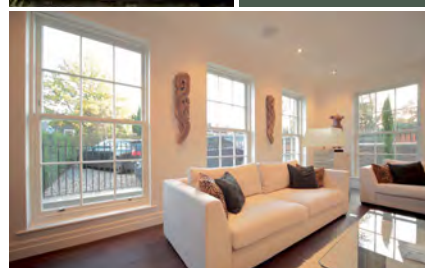
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STOCKISTS  
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